

3 1761 08125353 6

HISTORY
OF
BEAMINSTER

RICHARD HINE



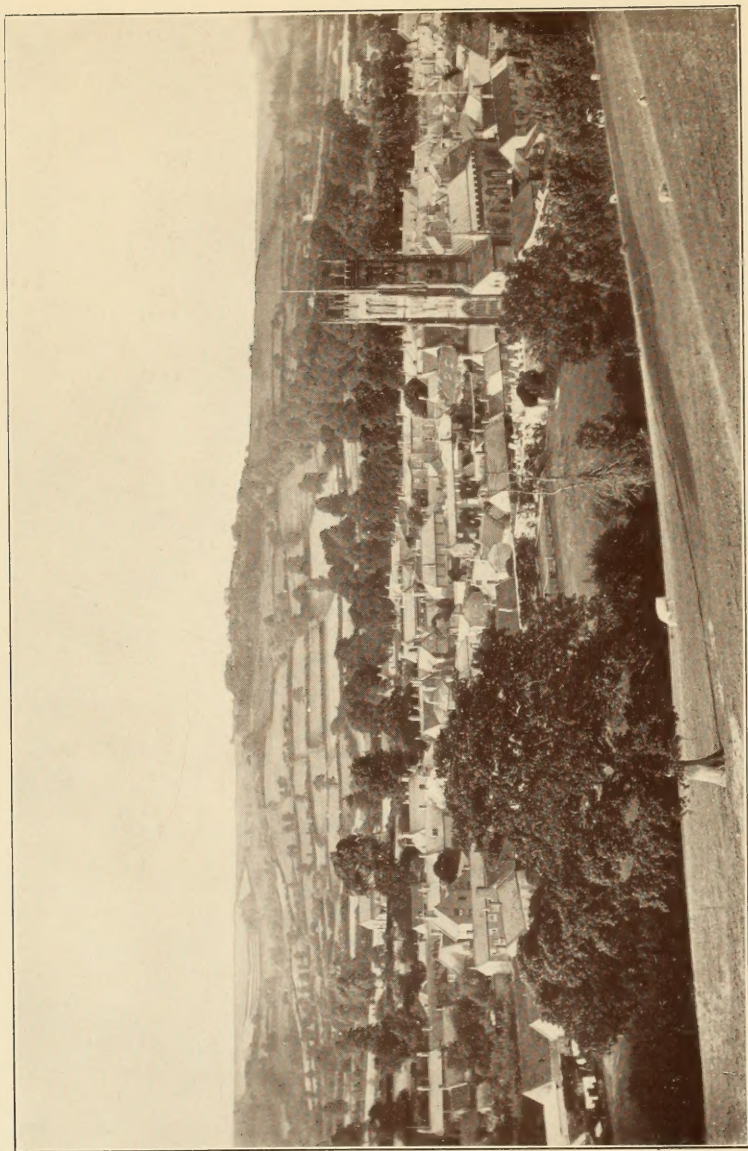
Presented to
The Library
of the
University of Toronto
by

Professor John Satterly
Department of Physics
University of Toronto



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2011 with funding from
University of Toronto

THE HISTORY OF BEAMINSTER



BEAMINSTER.

From the South-West.

THE HISTORY
OF
BEAMINSTER

BY
RICHARD HINE.

WITH FORTY ILLUSTRATIONS AND MAPS.

Taunton :
BARNICOTT & PEARCE, THE WESSEX PRESS
1914

DA
690
B4H5



870624

TO
MY HELPMATE
THIS VOLUME
IS
DEDICATED.

PREFACE.



THE author lays claim to no literary merit for this work, but hopes that the information he has gathered from many sources will prove of interest to all who wish to know something of Beaminster and its people from early days to the present time.

Towards the end of the eighteenth century John Banger Russell collected a vast store of local history, and from his MS. volume, now in the possession of Mr. Fiennes Trotman, much valuable material has been extracted. Hutchins' *History of Dorset*, Pulman's *Book of the Axe*, *The Proceedings of the Dorset Field Club*, *The Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, *The Congregational Churches of Dorset*, and other books of reference have been consulted.

The author gratefully acknowledges the willing help rendered him by the late Rev. A. A. Leonard, whose enthusiasm gave an impetus to the work.

A word of thanks is due to Mr. A. M. Broadley for his kindness in contributing an article on the "Worthiness of Beaminster," to Mr. J. Lane Kitson for his keen interest in supplying much local information, and for his exhaustive chapter on "Manors and Copyholds and Inclosure of Commons." Also to many others, too numerous to name, for without their courteous assistance this *History of Beaminster* could never have been written.

Much remains yet to be recorded, and it may be that at some not far distant day an abler pen will produce a work on this old world Dorset town more worthy of acceptance than the present volume.

BEAMINSTER,

May, 1914.

ERRATA.

Page 13. The Parish of Beaminster contains *three* Manors
as fully set out in Chapter X.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. EARLY DAYS	1
II. BEAMINSTER CHURCH	18
III. NONCONFORMITY	88
IV. DISASTROUS FIRES	118
V. MARKET HOUSE ; TOWN HALL ; FAIR ; MARKET CROSS	141
VI. CHARITIES	157
VII. BEAMINSTER AND ITS "WORTHINESS," by <i>A. M. Broadley</i>	216
VIII. FRIENDLY SOCIETIES AND FREEMASONRY	225
IX. MONMOUTH REBELLION ; "THE BLOODY ASSIZES" ; WILLIAM, PRINCE OF ORANGE	242
X. THE MANORS AND COPYHOLDS ; INCLOSURE OF COMMONS, by <i>J. Lane Kitson</i>	256
XI. VOLUNTEERS	280
MUSTER ROLL	282
XII. INDUSTRIES	303
XIII. THE PARISH CHEST	323
XIV. MANOR HOUSES	334
XV. WATCHMEN ; PARISH CONSTABLES ; POLICE	354
XVI. INNS AND TAVERNS	360
XVII. COACHES ; ROAD WAGGONS	367
XVIII. ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ; PRIVATE SCHOOLS	375
XIX. ROYAL EVENTS ; LOCAL COMMEMORATIONS	388
XX. HORN HILL TUNNEL	402
XXI. HOLY TRINITY CHURCH	414
XXII. READING ROOMS	422
XXIII. WATERWORKS ; RAINFALL ; FLOODS	428
XXIV. UNION WORKHOUSE	435
XXV. TITHES ; AGRICULTURE ; POPULATION	443
INDEX	453
LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS	469

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE
Beaminster from the South-West	<i>frontispiece</i>
Pilsdon Manor House	14
Melplash Court	14
Beaminster Church Tower, West Front, 1913	18
Beaminster, looking North East	30
(From a drawing by Abel Bugler, <i>circa</i> 1845).	
Beaminster Church	30
(From a drawing by Abel Bugler, <i>circa</i> 1845).	
Beaminster Church Tower, North West	60
(From a print in the <i>Gentleman's Magazine</i> , 1819).	
Alfred Codd, M.A., Vicar of Beaminster, 1857-1890	64
Arthur Allen Leonard, M.A., Vicar of Beaminster, 1890-1912	76
Fac-simile of Official Brief ordering the collection of money for rebuilding the town of Beaminster after the fire of 1684	126
Beaminster—Fore Place, 1870, looking East	128
Beaminster—Fore Place, 1914, looking West	128
South Turnpike Gate, Beaminster, abolished Dec. 31st, 1880	134
(From a water-colour painting by H. Codd).	
A Beaminster Fire Engine, <i>temp.</i> 1700	134
Beaminster, South Side of Market House, looking West, 1870	144
Beaminster Market House and Town Hall, demolished 1886	144
Frances Tucker, 1648-1685, foundress of Tucker's School	182
Thomas Spratt, D.D., Bishop of Rochester and Dean of Westminster, born at Beaminster, 1635	216
Vice-Admiral Sir Samuel Hood, K.B., born at Kingsland, Netherbury, Nov. 27, 1762	220
Club Sticks of the Beaminster Friendly Society	230
James Andrews, P.M., P.P.J.G.W. Dorset, P.Z. St. Mary's Royal Arch Chapter, No. 707	240
John Staines Webb, P.M., P.P.S.G.W. Dorset, P.Z. St. Mary's Royal Arch Chapter, No. 707, P.G.J. Dorset, P.P.G.S.W. Mark Master; also Member of Knight Templar and Rose Croix Degrees	240

	PAGE
Daniel's Knowle Burial Ground, exterior	248
Daniel's Knowle Burial Ground, interior	248
Map of East Field and South Field Commons, 1809	264
Map of Beaminster Wood and Short Moor Commons, 1809	274
Map of Holly Moor Common, 1809	276
Beaminster Volunteers at Burton Bradstock Camp, 1869	288
An Old Beaminster Shop, Hogshill Street	312
Parnham, East Front, 1910	334
Parnham, South Front, 1913	344
Mapperton Manor House	348
White Hart Hotel, Beaminster	360
Horn Hill Tunnel, South View	402
Plan of the New Road through Horn Hill, 1831	404
Opening of Horn Hill Tunnel, fac-simile of Programme	406
Holy Trinity Church, Beaminster, 1851	414
Boys of the Beaminster Union Workhouse, 1870	438
Girls of the Beaminster Union Workhouse, 1870	438
Beaminster Old Cottagers	448

History of Beaminster

Chapter I.

EARLY DAYS.

"The treasures of Antiquity, laid up
In old historic rolls, I open."



WAY from the busy haunts of men lies the little town—

"Sweet Be'mi'ster, that bist a-bound
By green an' woody hills all round."

Looking back into the dim and distant ages of long ago we may surmise that the foundation of Beaminster may have been a British settlement in the woods, which at that misty period filled the valley where the river Brit flows onward to the sea. Then later perchance a small Roman settlement of minor importance. The hills around furnish us with ample evidence of Roman occupation, and also of the "Ancient Britons," who dwelt there ages before the invaders drove them from their homes.

The earthworks upon our heights distinctly tell us of the state of Britain before its written history was begun; there are indeed few objects in the neighbourhood more interesting and instructive than these mighty entrenchments.

The most perfect of these fortifications are upon Eggardon Hill and Pilsdon Pen. On their summits many relics of prehistoric occupiers have from time to time been found, fragments of pottery, arrow heads of flint, and battle axes of bronze and stone, taking our thoughts back to the scenes of war, its bloodshed and its cruelties.

Such extensive camps as these were needed by our forefathers as places of refuge for their wives, their children, and their cattle, to save them from capture or annihilation during continual fighting, for perpetual warfare raged

among the men of Dorset—Durotriges, they were termed, “ dwellers in strongholds.” Each barbarous tribe occupied its own intrenched position, and how well these ancient folk used their primitive tools of horn, wood, or stone, in constructing the fortifications—almost as perfect to-day as when first erected, despite the relentless hand of time, and the destruction of utilitarian man—and how well they guarded the entrance to their camps, is on Eggardon especially well marked.

Antiquaries tell us that such encampments as Pylsdun and Aggerdun—“ the camp on the hill ”—were formed by a race called Iberians, and undoubtedly were built ages before the Roman occupation.

These mighty earthworks of long ago can but have a strange fascination for us, recalling the days when the news of the Roman invasion spread like wild-fire along our coast. They tell us Cæsar’s legionaries had to encounter tremendous fighting, and that the invaders conquered Dorset only after many battles.

We may picture the distant scene—the summoning of the many tribes into one great army, keen on resisting a common foe ; the charge of the charioteers down from the hill-tops upon the aliens beneath, spreading terror and confusion amid their ranks.

On the plateau enclosed by the ramparts of Eggardon are some eighty or ninety depressions still discernible, these are “ pit dwellings ” of the ancient inhabitants of which much might be told.

Perhaps the nearest “ British ” military camp to Beaminster—subsequently occupied by the Romans—is situate on Waddon Hill. Little trace however now remains of rampart or fosse, time and cultivation have almost obliterated them. But the site has been productive of many Roman and earlier relics ;* of these the late Mr. James Ralls of Bridport unearthed an interesting collection, which is now in the Literary and Scientific Institute of that town.

Two bronze daggers or spear heads, and a most perfect specimen of a bronze wedge-shaped celt, dug up on Waddon Hill some forty years ago, are in the possession of the writer.

* A British coin, date about B.C. 50, and a Roman piece of Claudius (A.D. 41-54) were found some years ago at Waddon Camp by the Rev. A. H. Malan, then residing at Broadwinsor. These coins have been recently presented by him to the Beaminster Institute.

BARROWS.

On Beaminster Down are two Barrows perhaps contemporary with the encampments on Eggardon, Pilsdon and Waddon Hills. These mounds of earth cover the remains of illustrious dead—perchance prehistoric warriors—whose names and deeds have never been recorded and of which tradition has no memory ; but century after century when marble has crumbled and brass tablets have become obliterated, these simple but enduring monuments remain, preaching their silent sermon and stimulating the curiosity of passing generations.

About thirty years ago the late Lieut.-Colonel Cox, then Lord of the Manor, caused these interesting tumuli to be opened, but in a somewhat cursory manner. Unfortunately inexperienced men were employed to do the work, with the result that the urns they discovered were much damaged by removal.

The following is a record of the excavation : “ In September 1874 I opened the Tumuli situated near the Turnpike Road on Beaminster Down, having contemplated doing so for some time. The opening or cutting was made from E. to W. and to the surface of the original ground. Near the centre about 5 feet deep, we came upon a crock or earthenware pan, bottom upwards, full of bones, with pieces of charred wood, and several lumps of coal lying near. The clay being very soft, it was found impossible to get the Pan out entire. The second was found about two feet from the surface. Sam^l S. Cox.”

These “ crocks or earthenware pans ” were rudely formed of coarse baked clay, and bore around the rim the characteristic rush markings or ornamentations of that period. They contained the calcined bones of cremated corpses of secondary and other interments. The pieces of charred wood are probably some fragments of the funeral pile which consumed the bodies. Fortunately pieces of the “ crocks ” together with the charred bones and portions of a skull have been carefully preserved, also the lumps of coal and burnt wood found in the barrows.

During the summer of 1903 three similar tumuli were most carefully opened near Martinstown by Messrs. H. St. George Gray of Taunton and Chas. S. Prideaux of Dorchester, their labours being rewarded by most important and interesting finds. In the mounds Romano-British

pottery, a rare bronze knife-dagger, fragments of an "incense-cup," a food vessel, an unusually large cinerary urn, and many flint implements were unearthed. The barrows also contained interments of the Bronze Age by inhumation and cremation, some burnt remains of a child being wrapped in what appeared to be a woven bag or pouch. A detailed account of the excavations is given in the *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club*, Vol. xxvi.

In the neighbourhood of Beaminster there were undoubtedly many barrows, some have almost entirely vanished. The levelling agency of time and weather aided by the plough, have in very many cases done their work of destruction only too well; the names of "Barrow Fields" and "Long Barrow Lane" alone perpetuate their memory.

LYNCHETS.

Of the many earthworks constructed by pre-historic man, perhaps the most apparent in close proximity to the town, are the hillside terraces,—Lynchets they are termed—possibly formed thousands of years ago.

Some antiquaries contend that these ridges, or "Shepherd's Steps," were for the protection of sheep from the onslaught of wolves or raiders; others say they were built up purely for cultural purposes.

The most conspicuous in the neighbourhood are situate at Higher Meerhay, and may easily be seen from the town. These lynchets were once used for the cultivation and drying of flax and so continued until the decline of the yarn industry half a century or more ago; then the ledges became neglected, overgrown and disused, but recently they were once again ploughed for regular crops. What these ledges were originally constructed for must of course be a matter of conjecture.

The term "lynchet" is believed to have been derived from an Anglo-Saxon word "hlinc" or lynch=a ridge of land. But the terraces are not "linches" but lynchets. Probably the termination "et" was introduced as a diminutive, implying, where it was used in this connection, a *little* strip of land, the *et* however not being Anglo-Saxon was adopted after the Norman conquest. In course of time the term lynchet seems to have been applied to artificially raised strips of land existing on a hill-side. In

Dorset they are also sometimes called "Lawnds" or "Lawnychets."

As to the purpose of the construction of lynchets there appear to be two principal theories, one that they were made for pastoral use, and the other that they were for tillage of some kind. A distinction seems to be drawn between those terraces which were constructed from the top and worked some way down a hill, and those which were apparently built up from the bottom and continued for some distance up the hill side, the former pointing to the pastoral view and the latter to the tillage theory. If this distinction be a well grounded one, the two varieties would have been made at distinct periods, one when the inhabitants were mainly pastoral and the other when tillage was in the ascendant.

Some authorities assign the origin of lynchets as products of the Neolithic Age.

Dr. Colley March—a Vice-President of the Dorset Field Club—who has devoted much time to the subject and published a pamphlet entitled *The Problem of Lynchets*,* arrives at the conclusion that the greatest probabilities are in favour of the local lynchets having been used for the growth of hemp and flax, if not actually constructed with that end in view. He gives several reasons for his opinion : lynchets abound both in the neighbourhood of Beaminster and Bridport, and each town has for centuries been intimately connected with the flax and hemp industry. The Midford Sands in which lynchets are generally found, form very favourable soil for the cultivation of both hemp and flax. There have also been protecting laws in operation at various times, compelling farmers to put a certain proportion of their arable land into the cultivation of these crops, and prohibiting it to be sold away from the neighbourhood.

Going further back for corroborative evidence in support of his theory Dr. March contends that hemp or flax was grown and used by an Aryan people who made their appearance in Europe some 7,000 years ago. In proof of this statement he cites the fact that near Martinstown a vase was found in a barrow—the product of the early Bronze Age, which immediately succeeded the Neolithic—containing the cremated remains of a child wrapped in a charred

* Reprinted from *Proceedings of the Dorset Field Club*.

fabric of hemp or flax. This certainly tends to prove that hemp or flax must have been grown near by in that distant age, and continued to be produced down to recent times.

As to the pastoral origin of lynchets some writers assume that these terraces formed a protection for the flocks of sheep kept upon the hill-lands against the wolves which ravaged the country. They picture our early ancestors long-haired, dressed in skins and armed with flint implements patrolling these embankments, keeping a sharp look-out for the wolves which had possession of the lowlands, and on the occasion of an attack driving them back to the valleys below—hence the name “Shepherd’s Steps.”

During the autumn of 1904, under the superintendence of Dr. Colley March and the writer, an investigation of the Higher Meerhay lynchets took place. Digging was greatly hindered by wet weather, but four important sections were cut. The excavation gave clear evidence of two periods of culture separated by an interval of no great duration ; and of the fact that prior to the first period, the terrace had been flattened at a time very remote, by the removal of chalk from a higher to a lower level.

ROMANO-BRITISH PERIOD.

Coming down to the time of the Roman occupation—about the year B.C. 55—we have ample evidence of their presence on our hills, if not in the town itself, by the pottery, coins, vessels of glass, and ornaments of bronze, which have from time to time been found, all of undoubted Roman workmanship.

Of the Roman settlements in Dorset, at least eighty are known. Handsome mosaic pavements have been uncovered at Halstock and Rampisham, telling us clearly that West Dorset was anything but a despised district of Britannia Prima,—Roman Britain. A recent discovery relative to the period was made at Little Windsor in the autumn of 1906, by some workmen engaged in drawing gravel on Blackdown or Blagdon Hill. Here they unearthed a large number of Roman roof tiles formed of fissile slabs of stone 17in. long, 10in. wide, and $\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick, each weighing about 9lbs. Many of the slabs were perfect specimens and had the nails which held the tiles to the timber of the roof

still in the holes at their apex.* Pottery of various kinds, worked stones,—portions of a hypocaust—and part of a Roman molar or hand millstone were also found, together with a coin of the reign of Claudius II, A.D. 269-70, and a ring. This latter find was submitted to Mr. C. H. Read, F.S.A. of the British Museum, who identified it as a “Roman bronze ring of a well known type; its setting, glass; subject, a man; date 2—4 century.”

The late Mr. T. S. Stevens of Little Windsor, took great interest in the excavations and rendered the writer valuable assistance in collecting specimens from the Roman débris.

Centuries before the arrival of the Romans, the inhabitants of Britain made trackways from one hill fortress to another. These early roads ran across the open downs, and along the crests of the hills from the mines to the coast, over which merchandise was carried by pack-horses. In many places their ancient courses are still indicated by the name of Ridgeway.

The Ancient Britons never carried the art of road making to any great perfection. It was to the Romans, who adapted their trackways, straightened and improved them in a wonderful manner, that we are chiefly indebted for the interesting fragments that remain; as also we unquestionably are for the principal modern highways which have been formed upon the ancient foundations.

Our nearest Roman roadway is that from Dorchester by Maiden Newton, Cromlech Lane† over Beaminster Down and Horn Hill through Broadwindsor to the forts on Pilsdon Pen and Lambert's Castle. A branch from this road diverged at the “Hore Stone” to Winyard's Gap, where there is a mutilated “British” encampment.

The Hore Stone is one of the relics remaining of this ancient highway, on which it served as a boundary mark. The word is derived from the Anglo-Saxon *or*, a boundary, and *stan*, a stone. This interesting landmark may still be seen on the right-hand side of the road about midway be-

* For an illustration of such tiles see *Proceedings of the Dorset Field Club*, Vol. I, p. 44.

† Pulman—in his *Book of the Axe*—says:—“This lane is known in the locality as ‘Crimmercrook Lane,’ an old corruption. The ‘crock,’ in the true spirit of modern utilitarianism, was a few years since broken up for mending the roads! Cromlechs were by some antiquaries considered to be Druidical altars for human and other sacrifices. But they are now generally understood to have been cists or coffin-parts, as it were, of barrows heaped over the remains of the illustrious dead, and permitted to remain after the barrows themselves were sacrilegiously removed in comparatively recent times, in many cases for agricultural purposes.”

tween the "Three Horse Shoes" Inn at Beaminster Bottom and Toller Down Gate, close to the iron direction post at the junction of the roads. For its preservation we are indebted to the late Mr. Peter Cox, who some years ago saved it from the fate which befel the cromlech.

About the year A.D. 410 the Emperor Honorius withdrew his troops from Britain, for the vast Roman Empire was tottering to its fall. The artist Millais, in a famous painting depicts the sailing away of the Roman Legions from Lulworth Cove. The departure was for Dorset a momentous event, for then came the Saxons and commenced their attacks. Green, the historian, tells us that Dorset before it was won cost them 120 years of fighting.

In civilization and art the Saxons were far inferior to the Romans; the houses they built were chiefly of mud and timber, not worthy to be compared with the massive and costly mansions of their predecessors.

Under the Saxon kings many Dorset towns were of great importance. Wareham was a royal town—the Kings of Wessex had a palace there—Brightric, King of the West Saxons was buried there, and at Wareham the body of Edward II* (the Martyr of Corfe Castle) was for five years deposited, previous to its final interment at Shaftesbury. Ethelbald was buried at Sherborne and King Ethelbert his brother, also. Ethelred, the brother of Alfred the Great, was interred at Wimborne Minster, and at Shaftesbury Canute died in 1035. A thousand years ago the Bishop's See was at Sherborne.

All these important events have but an indirect bearing on the history of Beaminster, but they shew that there was a vast deal of going and coming of the chief men of the land up and down the county, in which this town must have played its part.

The name of Beaminster no doubt dates back to Anglo-Saxon times. The word Minster is a sure indication of a Saxon ecclesiastical foundation. Hence, whatever might have been its antecedents, we may assume that the town existed some two hundred years before the Heptarchy.

John Banger Russell, a local historian, writing about the year 1790, says—"I was once of opinion that the Place was formerly Brit-Minster or Bert-Minster, signifying a

* According to modern research it is contended that the murder of the King did not take place at Corfe Castle, but possibly at Coryates (*Corfe-geate*) near Portesham, or at Sherborne.

Minster or Church on the river Bert or Brit, but I have nowhere met with this name. The word "Beiminstre"* is of Saxon derivation. In process of time it recd. a new appellation—Beau-Minster—wch. signifyes faire or beautiful Church; but this is quite a new name, as in more ancient times the Chappell of Beamister was small and in all likelihood without a Tower, so that it co^d not have been at that time so very remarkable for its beauty as to receive its name on that acc^t. But it must be acknowledged that when ye Normans became possessed of this Island, the names of Places were much altered, either owing to a Partiality for their own Language, or from an unwillingness to frame their mouths to pronounce some of the Harsh names used by the Saxons."

The following extract is from the *Beaminster Parish Magazine* of March, 1878.

"It may not be well known that the name Beaminster is, with some probability supposed to be a corruption of 'S. Begaminster' S. Bega was a Saint in the Roman Calendar. She was 'a holy woman from Ireland.' There would seem to be no sufficient historical evidence for ascertaining with certainty in what way the pious S. Bega became associated with Beaminster. It does not necessarily follow that she personally founded or even contributed to the founding of the original Saxon Church, although she probably did one or the other. The fame of her sanctity was well known; and thus some devout admirer of her character might have dedicated it to her memory. The Town may, very possibly, have taken its name from that Saint,—as it is to be found in many ancient deeds† as *Bega Minster*."

It was on account of the supposed connection of Bega with the town that an effigy, purporting the legendary saint, was placed in a vacant niche on the west front of the church tower in 1878.

The following is extracted from a MS. of the late Col. Cox formerly at the Manor House—"Some have supposed that the name Beaminster is derived from Beau and Minster, in allusion to its handsome Tower and Church. This must be erroneous; First, because it would be composed of words of two different languages; Secondly, because Beaminster appears in *Domesday Book*, long before the building of the Tower, and

* The names in *Domesday* have often been so corrupted by the Norman scribes that no certain conclusion can be drawn from them. But when the name has been preserved in an ancient charter it is generally possible to detect the original form.

† Unfortunately the writer omits to give particulars or dates of these documents.

alteration of the Church, which took place in the reign of Henry VII. May not the name be derived from the Saxon words 'Beam'=wood, and 'Minstre,' signifying a Church in a wood? I have heard from my Father, that his Grandmother (she died in 1773, over 80 years of age, *née* Mary Painter) said she remembered the time when a squirrel could jump from tree to tree, from Horn Park to Langdon. The names of Wood Common, Shortmoor, and Holly Moor Common enclosed in 1801-2, would justify the idea that the whole of this valley was formerly a wood."

There seems in the writer's opinion to be little doubt that the name of the town is derived from the two old English (Anglo-Saxon) words *Beam*, a tree,—or its genitive plural *Beama*,—and *Mynster*, a church, *i.e.* The Church of Trees, or amidst trees. Thus *Beama-Mynster* would easily contract into *Beiminstre*, *Beminster*, *Bemister* or *Beaminster*.

According to Hutchins, much of the woods were destroyed to obtain timber for rebuilding the houses of the town, after the fires of 1644 and 1684.

NORMAN PERIOD.

We are indebted to that invaluable document *Domesday Book*, for the earliest reliable information concerning the town. From its pages we learn that *Beiminstre* is surveyed amongst the lands of the Bishop of Sarum, and is the first of nine Manors therein described as for the sustenance of the monks of Sherborne "*de victu monachorū Scireburn.*"

"The same Bishop [of Sarum] holds *Beiminstre*. In King Edward's time it was taxed for sixteen hides and one virgate of land. There is arable to twenty ploughs: besides this there are in demesne two carucates which never paid the tax, and he has two ploughs there and a mill which pays twenty pence. There are under the bishop nineteen villains, and twenty bordars, and five serfs, and thirty-three acres of meadow. Pasture, one mile long and half-a-mile broad. Wood, one mile-and-a-half long, and half-a-mile broad. Of the same land, Algar holds two hides of the bishop: H. de Cartrai two hides save one virgate; Sinod, five hides; Brictuin, one hide and-a-half. There are nine ploughs there, and eleven serfs, and nineteen bordars, and two villains, and two coscez, and two mills which pay twenty-eight pence, and forty acres of meadow. Pasture four quarentens long and two quarentens broad, and thirty-two acres of pasture besides; wood, thirteen quarentens long and nineteen

quarentens broad. The bishop's demesne is worth sixteen pounds, that of the vassals only seven pounds."

A *hide* of land is said to have been 100 acres.

A *virgate* of land about 25 acres.

A *carucate* was as much land as a man could manage with one plough in a year, having pasture and houses for the ploughmen and cattle.

A *quarenten* of land was a furlong of about 200 yards.

A *mile* was about 2,600 yards.

An *acre* of land about 160 perches in circumference.

Demesne is the lord's manor house and lands.

Villains were the resident tenants annexed to the manor; they were permitted to farm small portions of land for the sustenance of themselves and families, but being the property of the lord of the manor, they could be disposed of by deed to a different owner. In later years villains became copyholders of property.

A *serf* was a slave or common labourer.

A *bordar* occupied a position above either the villain or serf.

At the time *Domesday Book* was compiled, the feudal lord owned not only the land, but all the labourers connected with it. Money in *Domesday* is generally estimated at about thirty times its present value.

In the fourth year of William Rufus—1090—Osmond,* Bishop of Sarum gave Begeminster and the knight's fee there to the church of Sarum.

A *knight's fee* was sufficient inheritance to maintain a knight with convenient revenue. Probably it varied in different localities, some writers affirm that it was about 100 acres of land, others say it was as much as 680 acres.

Every tenant of crown lands was bound to furnish an armed soldier for each knight's fee, and maintain him in times of war for forty days. This was commuted by Henry II into a money payment of twenty shillings for each knight's fee, termed a tax for furnishing a bow-man.

During the reign of Edward II in the year 1316 the Bishop of Sarum, Master Walter Hervy, William de Braybrok, Alexander de Hemygly and Robert le —, were certified by the sheriff as joint lords of Beymynstre, with the hamlets of Netherbury, Langedon, Ashe, &c., in the hundred of Beyminstre.†.

* As soon as William the Conqueror had obtained the crown of England he created Osmond, Earl of Seez in Normandy, the first Bishop of Salisbury, and then Earl of Dorset, making him further his Chancellor, and one of his Privy Council He died December 9th, 1099, and was buried in his Church, and at length put into the Kalendar of Romish Saints.

† *Nomina Villarum.*

BEAMINSTER HUNDRED.

Beaminster is the capital of the hundred of Bemminster-Forum and Redhove, or Redhone.

"The triple name of this hundred probably arose from an ancient division into two parts or districts, as was the case at Sherborne, and other Dorsetshire hundreds, and termed the In-hundred (*hundredum intrinsecum*) and the Out-hundred (*hundredum forinsecum*), Redhove or Redhone having afterwards been united, as it probably belonged to the same lord. The word *Forinsecus* or *Forinsecum*, as usual in ancient records, was always written in a contracted form—*Forin*, or *Forinsec*, or perhaps *Fo'rum*—and probably, 'some blundering scribe,' as Hutchins remarks, not understanding its import, converted it into the unabbreviated *Forum*, a word of a very different meaning, and totally destroying the idea of a division of the hundred into two parts, which mistake has continued to the present day.

Hence it has happened that both parts of the hundred of Beaminster have been supposed to belong to the lords of Bradpole, though the courts for the In-hundred, or hundred of Beaminster proper, have been regularly held in the name of the Bishop of Sarum, or their lessees, whilst those of the Out-hundred, with which the Bishops had nothing to do, have been long neglected.

Redhove or Redhone* has now only two houses that go by that name at North Poorton,† where the ancient courts, now neglected, were held for centuries.

In the record 20 Edward III neither Bemminster, nor Bemminster-Forum occur; Redhove does, and is said to contain S. Perrot, Morteshorn (Mosterton) S. and N. Maperton, Porton and Bourton (? Burton).

In the *Rotuli Monarum*, Suth-perrott, is said to be in Rydehove and Bemynstre Forum."‡

The division of England into *counties* is very ancient, it is supposed to have been reduced to its present form by Alfred the Great, who also sub-divided the counties into *hundreds*§ and the hundreds again into *tithings*. He probably re-arranged methods which existed long before the Saxon invasion, as it is almost certain that *hundreds* were of British origin. The object of these divisions was for the due administration of justice.

* "Anno 1718. Paid the proportion of 40s. Imposed as a fine upon the hundred of Beaminster forum & Red Hone by the Judges of Assize for a nuisance presented in the sd Hundred—10½d. [Extract from Tucker's Charity Accounts.]

† Hutchins' *History of Dorset*, 1774 edition. These houses have now disappeared.

‡ Pulman's *Book of the Axe*.

§ The Hundred is the oldest and in many respects the most interesting of English institutions. It is so ancient that we do not know its origin. Of the original settlers a hundred families, or a hundred warriors, or the holders of a hundred hides, constituted themselves into groups for self defence with powers of local self-government.

The Court Houses, in which, until quite recent times, the business of the *hundred* was transacted, were once fortified. Hook Court is still protected by a moat, so also is the Court House at Corscombe.

Every ten of these hundred families constituted in Saxon times a *tything* or *fribourg* (free-borough), and each householder was a surety or free-pledge to the other. Every man was required to attach himself—and it was a punishable offence if he did not—to some tything. If anyone entertained a stranger, and gave him shelter for three nights, and if the sojourner afterwards violated the laws, the person who had lodged him was held responsible, and compelled to make ample compensation for the stranger's misdeeds.

The *hundred* of Redhove anciently belonged to the Gorges, lords of Bradpole, and the Russels of Kingston Russel.

In 1774 the Beaminster *hundred* comprised the following tythings—Ashe, South Bowood, Beminster, Chardstock, Cheddington, Corscombe, Langdon, Melplash, Netherbury, Stoke Abbas and Wambrook.

* * * * *

The Parish of Beaminster consists of two Manors—Beaminster Prima or Parsonatus and Beaminster Secunda—formerly belonging to two prebends in the Cathedral of Sarum, the prebendaries of which or their lessees were lords for the time being. The town still gives its name to a prebendal stall in Salisbury Cathedral.

"In 1291 the manors were valued at twenty marks each and 26 Henry VIII Beaminster Prima was rated at £20 - 2 - 6. Tenthhs £2 - 0 - 3. Beaminster Secunda at £22 - 5 - 7½. Tenthhs £2 - 4 - 6¾. The customs of the two manors are exactly similar; they were presented by the homagers of the manor of Beaminster Secunda at a court holden for the same anno 1604."*

The Parish of Beaminster now includes Buckham, East Axnoller, West Axnoller, Chapel Marsh, Wellwood (*alias* Willow-wood), Combe, North Buckham, South Buckham, Shatcombe, Stonecombe, Higher Meerhay, Lower Meerhay, North Field, Parnham, Coombe Down, Whitcombe, Storridge, Mapperton Marsh, Mapperton Farm, Langdon, Barrow-Field, Knowle, and Horn Park.

Beaminster is now the head of a Union of twenty-six

* Hutchins' *History of Dorset*.

parishes, comprising Beaminster, Bettiscombe, Broadwindsor, Burstock, Cheddington, East Chelborough, West Chelborough, Corscombe, Evershot, Halstock, Hook, Mapperton, Marshwood, Melbury Osmond, Melbury Sampford, Mosterton, Netherbury, South Perrott, Pilsdon, Poorstock, North Poorton, Rampisham, Stoke Abbott, Seaborough, Thorncombe and Wraxall.

Parishes were originally—in Saxon or perhaps British times—divisions of *hundreds*, and it was only by degrees in later years that they became used for ecclesiastical purposes. Boundaries of parishes were determined by those of a *manor*.

In the “good old days” the land owners—lords of the manors—resided in stately mansions on their estates. They loved their country homes where with their wives and families they considered the welfare of their tenants, and thoroughly entered into the enjoyments of a rural life; hence the fine old Manor Houses which still remain in the neighbourhood, Mapperton and Parnham are noble examples which have escaped the degradation meted out to so many houses less fortunate.

Pilsdon (once the home of those staunch Royalists the Wyndhams), Childhay, Melplash and many other Manor houses, have fallen from their high estate. No longer are they inhabited by their lords, surrounded by their vassals, yet an air of departed grandeur lingers around these ancient dwellings, now utilized as farm residences.

“In the time of Henry II and for ages afterwards, the great halls of the principal manor houses, in which the nobility and gentry resided were crowded with vast numbers of their vassals and tenants who were daily fed at their cost; and in order to supply the constant plenty required for such profuse hospitality, they kept in their hands large demesnes, which were cultivated by their villains; and received their rents, not in money but in provisions from many of their farmers to whom they had granted freehold lands adjacent to their seats.”*

The hall was not only used for a dining-room, but for the general resort of the family until the hour of rest.

As our ancestors were absolute strangers to the many elegant embellishments of modern life, their winter evenings were generally spent in the uniform practice of telling stories. Cards, dice, chess, shovel-board, shuttle-cock,

* Lyttelton's *History of Henry II.*



PILSDON MANOR HOUSE.

(By permission of the Editor of *Country Home*).



MELPLASH COURT.

(By permission of the Editor of *Country Home*).

music, singing and dancing were amongst the many amusements provided in their halls.

“ Merry it is in halle to hear the harpe,
The minstrells syng, the jogelours carpe.”

During the reign of James I country gentry received no encouragement to reside in London, “ who did thereby—through the instigation of their wives, or to new model and fashion their daughters—neglect their country hospitality and cumber the city.” They were ordered by a proclamation “ to depart the city and return to their country mansions, there to perform the duties and charge of their several places and service, and likewise by house-keeping to be a comfort unto their neighbours, in order to renew and revive the laudable custom of hospitality in their respective counties.”

“ From the Conquest till the time of Henry the eighth the Inhabitants of this p’sh supported themselves entirely by Agriculture ; the Lands were divided amongst them in small Portions and tho’ their Tenure cannot be called a free one yet they were in a great measure exempted from the slavish services which the inferior Tenants during the Feudal System were bound to perform. They were obliged instead to pay their Lords Herriotts, yearly Rents, Fines for the Renewal of their Estates and to grind their Corn at the Lord’s Mill. It does not appear that they were called forth to Battle, as was the Fate of the Tenants of Lay Lords, and even of many of those who held Lands under the Religious Houses ; but if they were called out, Military Service would not have been considered as a Slavery.”*

The historian Leland writing in the time of Henry VIII says—“ Bemistre is a praty market towne in Dorsetshire, & usith much Housbondry and lyith in one Streat from North to South ; & in another from West to Est. Ther is a fair Chappelle of Ease in this Towne. Netherby is the Paroch Chirch to it, and Bemistre is a Prebend to the Church of Saresbyri. Bemistre is but a 4 Miles from Crookeshorn a market in Somersetshir, by north from Beminstre. Hoke Park, having an auncient Manor Place on it, is but a Mile by Est South Est from Bemistre. Shirbirn is 6 miles toward the Est, from Bemistre. The Ryver goeth from Bemistre, a Mile lower, to Netherbyri, an Up-

* J. B. Russell’s MS.

landisch Town, leaving it on an Hille on the farther Rise toward the West. Heer be 3 Prebendes together, longging to the Chirch of Saresbyri. The first is comunely caullid Netherbyri in Ecclesis. Anthonie Chalcedonie hath this. The secunnd is caullid Netherbyri in terris—The 3d is caullied ——— The Ryver from Netherbyri runnith a 3 miles lower on to Britport Bridg. And a Mile lower by South to the Se.

I rode from Britport 3 Miles to Netherbyri, and then a Mile farther to Bemistre. The ground al this way is an exceeding good and almost the best vaine of ground for Corne and Pasture and Wood that is in al Dorsetshire. From Bemistre I rode a Mile to the toppe of an high Hille, and ther I left not far of on the lift Hande North-Warde Ax-Knolle wher Ax Ryver risith that goeth to Axmouth. The Ryver Birt or Brit risith a little more then half a Mile to the North above Bemistre runns by the Est end of the Towne under a little stone bridg of two praty arches."

It will be noticed that the chronicler is a little inaccurate in his mileage.

"We have no account at what time Trade was first established in Beaminster; but in the reign of James I the Town was well built and the inhabitants very flourishing."*

BEAMINSTER BUTTS.

At the beginning of the last century according to J. B. Russell's MS. there remained on Beaminster Down two Butts "about 51 yards and a Half distant from each other." They were on the south side of the Down, close to the road and were "formerly used for marks for shooting arrows at."

The hillocks or mounds of earth have now entirely disappeared and the writer has failed to trace their site, although Sir Frederick Treves says—"It may be of interest to know that at Meerhay, by Beaminster, there are two butts."†

It would certainly be of interest if the ancient archery banks could be located. The name "Butts" is however quite unknown at Meerhay, but at East Axnoller there is a field so called.

It appears that as early as the fifth year of Edward the

* J. B. Russell's MS.

† *Highways and Byways in Dorset.*

Fourth's reign, 1466, every Englishman and every Irishman dwelling in England, was ordered to have a long bow of his own length, and the Act directed that butts should be made in every township, at which the inhabitants were to shoot up and down upon all feast days under the penalty of one half-penny for each omission ; and masters were bound to have their apprentices instructed in the use of the bow.

Why the Beaminster Butts should have been erected so far from the town is difficult to comprehend, unless they were also used by archers from other parishes.

Another Act of Parliament was passed 3 Henry VIII whereby it was ordered that "all sorts of men under the age of forty years should have bows and arrows, and use shooting (certain persons excepted) and that butts should be erected in every parish." The English bowmen were anciently very famous and it was supposed that the defence of the kingdom depended much on the skill of the people in archery.

Lord Herbert of Cherbury, who wrote in the reign of James I, was of opinion that good archers would do more execution even at that time than infantry armed with muskets.

Shooting at butts was once made binding on Sundays. It was laid down by King James I, and this was re-ordered by Charles II "that every man after church service should practice at the butts." This referred to archery, for the gun was not then the best of weapons.

It is known that the training of archers was continued in Dorset till 1590 and probably later.

A field at Stoke Abbott still known as "Butts" was probably the practising ground for the bowmen of that village.

Chapter II.

BEAMINSTER CHURCH.



NOBLE building indeed we possess in our Parish Church, with its stately tower, under whose shade sleep so many of our ancestors.

A powerful claim old churches have upon our consideration ; of all that men have made, they beyond all other buildings stand as monuments to the piety of our forefathers ages ago. Hallowed to us they must ever be by their solemn associations with the past, and by the reflections they must inspire about the future !

St. Mary's Church is indeed a fine structure, in spite of the destroying hand of Father Time, of fanaticism, and of modern restorations ; for undoubtedly "restorations" *have* swept away interesting relics which can never be replaced.

Standing on an eminence on the south side of the town, the church is an imposing edifice. By far the best part of the building is its magnificent tower, which rises to a height of nearly one hundred feet. This tower—erected during the reign of Henry VII—is massive, square and embattled, with pinnacles, buttresses and gargoyles, and has a staircase turret towards the eastern angle of the North side. It probably replaced one of a much earlier date, for Hutchins says "In 1503 a legacy was given towards building a *new* tower here. The top and sides were antiently ornamented with pinnacles,—38 disposed in different parts—those on the top—sixteen in number—were entirely destroyed at the Reformation, or during the Civil War, and age has made great havoc with the rest. On the West and North sides are many empty niches."

This statement is not quite correct, as from the following entry in the Churchwardens' accounts for the year 1667 we know that some of the pinnacles—if not the sixteen



BEAMINSTER CHURCH TOWER.

West Front.
1912.

mentioned by Hutchins—on the *top* of the tower, had not at that date been entirely destroyed.

1667 “ Hugh Sugar for 5 clamps for ye pinnacles at the toope of ye towre – 2s. – 6*d*.”

1667 “ Henry Peach for stownes & 2 days Labor about the pinicles of the towre & Lyme 00 – 4s. – 00*d*.”

In 1659 “ The Church and Tower were much repaired.”*

The tower—about eight feet from the ground and at mid-height—is encircled by a band of quatrefoils and other tracery. Immediately above the large West window are the principal decorations, consisting of a series of sculptures in excellent preservation. The central figure of the three lower canopied niches, represents the Virgin Mary, seated with the Child Christ, the figure wears a crown, and holds in the right hand, a sceptre. On the left side as we face the tower, stands the figure of a man with flowing beard, generally supposed to represent Saint James the Less† who, according to tradition, was killed with a “ fuller’s bat,” and was therefore regarded as the patron saint of clothiers. Sail-cloth and woollen cloth manufactures, were once the chief industries of the town. On the other side of the central statue, is a representation of St. George slaying the dragon. Above there is a small square-headed window of two lights, having hood moulds with ornamental terminations, corresponding with those on the other faces of the tower, but in this instance walled up, as part of the original design, and having,—beneath the foliated heads of the two lights—a sculpture of the Crucifixion with a figure on each side, under the arms of the cross, intended to represent the Virgin Mary and Saint John.

The window on the South side of the tower has been recently restored and is also walled up. Those on the North and East are glazed, admitting light to the present belfry.

On the façade of the tower, just above the blind window, is a second group of niches and pinnacles. The two carvings in the centre represent, on the left, the Resurrection, and on the right, the Ascension.‡

On each side, a little higher, are statues, dressed in the

* J. B. Russell’s MS.

† Recently, from the action of the weather, this figure crumbled and fell in pieces to the ground.

‡ Such representations are rare, especially that of the Ascension,

costumes of the times. That on the left is perhaps intended for a Palmer or Pilgrim, with a staff in his right hand, a wallet or knapsack at his back, and apparently a scallop shell (the pilgrim's badge) in the front of his hat.* The figure on the right has an implement representing a fuller's bat in his right hand, and a miniature "fulling-mill" in the left. Tradition interprets these figures as representing two contributors to the building of the tower.

The upper story is lighted on either face by a pair of lofty pointed windows of two lights each, pierced for sound, divided by a central pier, at the foot of which is a crocketed pinnacle, the shaft set angle-wise, rising from a corbel placed in the centre of the string, which marks the stage.

The buttresses are highly ornamental features of the building, where the lower stages are exposed to view, the faces are cut into niches with crocketed canopies; grotesque animals crouch upon the slopes of the two lower sets-off, from the backs of which arose originally—now replaced—small crocketed pinnacles. The upper stages terminate with pyramidal niches and crocketed finials, behind each of which rises a slender engaged shaft continued to the top of the battlements, formerly terminating in ornamental pinnacles, which were restored at the general restoration, 1877-8.

Embedded in some modern work on the roof of the tower two finials of the old pinnacles were discovered; these served as models for the new ones, which were carved in Ham Hill stone. On the stoolings of the original pinnacles—which remained upon the parapets—the modern ones were erected, thus occupying the site of those formerly there. The timber and lead of the roof, as well as the inside walling of the Bell-loft having fallen in a dilapidated state, a complete repair and restoration was decided upon. The work was undertaken by Mr. C. Trask of Stoke-sub-Hamdon, under the direction of Mr. W. White, a London architect. In addition to the replacement of the damaged and missing pinnacles, six new figures were carved for the vacant niches. Four of these were placed on the West front, the two on the right, as we face the window, represent the Virgin Mary

* The scallop, or Pilgrim's Shell, is also known as St. Jacob's Shell, because the pilgrims who in the Middle Ages went in great companies to the shrine of St. James (Jacob) of Compostella in the north of Spain, carried a scallop-shell to serve as a spoon or cup when on their long journey. It was the custom for the pilgrims to fasten the shell to their cap or hat, as an emblem and indication of their destination.

and her Mother ; those on the left Joseph and the Angel Gabriel. The two other statues were set in empty recesses, on the North side of the tower ; they personate " Saint Bega " and King Alfred. The sculptures were executed by Mr. Harry Hems of Exeter. It may be that the lost images were destroyed either at the Reformation or at the time of the Civil War.

Pulman says—" The Puritans when in power, were so anxious to remove every vestige of Roman Catholic worship, and to wreck their vengeance even upon the walls, that very few churches escaped their mutilations—the good, the bad, the ugly, the interesting, being indiscriminately sacrificed—somewhat after the fashion of modern church restorers, but from a widely different motive."

The corbels and gargoyles on the tower are very curious and worthy of notice. We are told that lions' heads of stone or baked earth were used by the Romans to convey water from the roofs of their houses ; this idea appears to have been seized upon by the builders of our early churches. Accordingly, the grotesque looking objects attached to church towers, were designed, as antiquaries inform us, to represent evil spirits, embodied and frightened beyond measure at the sound of the bells, for in days of yore bells were supposed to have marvellous powers imparted to them by the holy water, with which, on being placed in towers they were always ceremoniously besprinkled by a priest.

But stranger objects still once ornamented or rather desecrated this stately pile. It was during the reign of James II after Jeffreys had held his " Bloody Assizes " at Dorchester in September 1685,* that the blackened ghastly remains of the judge's victims—possibly natives of the town—were suspended from different parts of Beaminster Tower.

Beaminsterians are justly proud of their fine peal of bells. In the year 1765 we learn that the five bells which then hung in the tower, were re-cast into a ring of eight.

According to the *Inventory of Church Goods* taken in 1552, there was but one bell in the tower at that date. When four others were added is not known, as unfortunately there appears to have been no record taken at the time of re-casting of any dates or inscriptions they bore, neither were the dimensions or weights of the bells attested.

* See Chapter III.

The following minutes are entered in one of the Churchwarden's books :—

" At a public Vestry duly warned and held the 16th day of May, 1764, to consider the ruinous condition or state of the Bells, where its unanimously agreed that the five bells be taken down and new cast into Eight, which new bells are to be as near as may be the waite of the present five, and that new chimes be made to go on the said bells, and that the present Churchwardens do apply to several Eminent Bell founders for an Estimate of the charge and Expense thereof and that the several Estimates be laide be fore a vestry for their approbation."

(This minute was signed by twenty parishioners).

" At an Adjournment of Vestry this day held it is unanimously agreed that the Churchwardens do Imploy Mr. Tho^s Bilby of Tuestoke to cast the present five Bells in to a Peal of Eight, and to pay him after the rate of One Guinea p. hundred Grace, the Parish to find a Convenient place for casting the s^d Bells, find Bricks, Stones, Clay, and Sand and Wood and Cole for Melting the s^d Bells, and Drying the Moulds and to bring it in place. The Tenor Bell to be first Melted and after the Base Mettle is taken out, the pure Mettle then to be waid with the other Four Bells. The Eight Bells to be made as near as possible to the same weight the present five now are, what Mettle is added he is to receive One Shilling and 6d. for it, and to pay the same price for any Mettle that shall be left. The Bells to be completed on or before the first of Next November. June 8th, 1764."

(This minute is signed by Richard Symes and nineteen other parishioners present at the meeting).

" At a public Vestry held the 6 day of august 1764 it is agreed by the majority of this vestry that Daniel Symes be Employed to take down the old Bells, Cage, Beams, and floor, and new make the new cage, hang the Eight new bells agreeable to Mr. Bilbies proposals and directions, at twenty one pounds, and that Mr. Eveleigh be Employed to make all the new Ironwork @ Six pence p^r pound."

(Signed by Richard Symes and ten others).

The re-casting of the bells took place in a weaving shed adjoining the churchyard.

1764 " Sep 10 To removing y^e Loombs and other things out of the house to Cast y^e Bells in. 0 - 5 - 0."

Two years after the bells were placed in the tower, a set of new chimes was added.* Affixed to the iron-work, is an inscribed brass plate—

Mr Tho^s Harris } Wardens
& Mr John Hearn } 1767.
Tho^s Bilbie. Cullumpton. Fecit.

* A set of chimes was in the tower in 1679, for that year was " Pd ye Clarks Bill for keeping the Clock, Bells & Chimes £2 : 0 : 0."

In 1709 Ralph Cloud received £10 11s. 6d. " for his work about the bells and chimes."

The following minute gives particulars :—

“ At a Vestry held the 19th day of November, 1765, to consider a proper person to make a set of new chimes, its agreed that Mr. Thos. Bilbie, Junr., do make a new set of Chimes, the Barrel to be four foot over, and three foot long, the Barrel and three crosses to be made of Mahogany wood with a iron spill two inches square, the daggs to be fixt with nutts and screws and the hamers to way sixteen pounds each, and to be kept in repair for one year after set going, to have two tunes as shall be agreed by the parish and to be set up in the tower by Midsummer next, and be playing by the 25th day of July next, and the said Thos. Bilbie do agree to allow five shillings a week for every week after the 25th day of July next, till ye chimes are set to play. He also agrees to clean the Church Clock and put it going, and make the Chimes as aforesaid for the sume of forty-five pounds.”

(This agreement was signed by the contractor, Thos. Bilbie, Junr., and ten parishioners).

The accounts shew that on November 29th, 1766, a payment was made “ to Messrs. Bilbies as pr bill £136 : 8 : 0 ” (which presumably included re-casting the bells) and on December 19th, 1766, “ To Symes and Sanders as pr rec^t £24 : 0 : 0.” The total amount expended between Easter, 1763, and Easter, 1766, was £437 17s. 9d., raised by church-rates.

It appears that the chimes played the “ two tunes as agreed by the parish ” for thirteen years, when a change was made, as we learn from the following entry—

“ Apl 8th 1780 – To Charles Cloud and Henry Slade for altering the tune on the chimes – 0 – 5 – 0.”

From marks on the barrel it seems the “ daggs ” which played one of the tunes have been removed, this was probably done in 1780. Since that date no change has been made, and the chimes continue to play the hymn tune known as *Hanover* every three hours throughout the day and night.

The clock is of an earlier date, it bears a brass plate inscribed—

Ra. Cloud
the Maker

1739

and on the ironwork

Wm. Sanders – Hen. Goold
Ch. Wardens.

This clock must have replaced a much earlier one for we learn from the Churchwardens' accounts that in 1651 the

Clarke was payd £1 : 17 : 4 " for keeping the Bells & Clocke & for other things."

In 1675 a charge is entered " For making y^e Clock & mending y^e fourth bell clipper £6 : 10 : 0."

The diameters of the bells are:—

Treble	32 inches	Note	D.
II	32 $\frac{3}{4}$ —	—	C.
III	34 $\frac{1}{4}$ —	—	B.
IV	36 $\frac{1}{2}$ —	—	A.
V	38 $\frac{3}{4}$ —	—	G.
VI	41 $\frac{1}{8}$.. —	—	F.
VII	45 $\frac{1}{2}$ —	—	E.
Tenor	52 $\frac{3}{4}$ —	—	D.

The height of the tenor is 37 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Weight about 28 cwt.

INSCRIPTIONS.

I.

T. BILBIE SENR. & T. BILBIE JUNR. FECIT 1765 ⚔ ⚔ ⚔ ⚔

II.

⚔ MR. THOMAS HARRIS & MR. JOHN HEARN CH. WARDENS 1765
⚔ T ⚔ BILBIE. FECIT ⚔

III.

⚔ MR. THOMAS HARRIS & MR. JOHN HEARN CH. WARDENS 1765 ⚔
⚔ T ⚔ BILBIE. FECIT ⚔

IV.

⚔ MR. T. HARRIS MR. J. HEARN CH. WARDENS 1765 ⚔ ⚔
⚔ T ⚔ BILBIE. FECIT ⚔ ⚔

V.

⚔ ⚔ ⚔ THOMAS BILBIE & SONS. FECIT ⚔ 1765 ⚔ ⚔ ⚔ . ⚔ . ⚔ . ⚔ .

VI.

⚔ ⚔ MR. JOHN HEARN & MR. THOMAS HARRIS CHURCHWARDENS,
⚔ 1675 ⚔ ⚔
T. BILBIE. FECIT.

VII.

⊙ ⊙ MR. JOHN HEARN & MR. THOMAS HARRIS. CHURCHWARDENS
1765
⚔ ⚔ ⚔ ⚔ ⊙ T ⊙ BILBIE. FECIT ⚔ ⚔ ⚔ ⚔

VIII.

⚔ ⚔ MR. THOMAS HARRIS & MR. JOHN HEARN. CHURCHWARDENS
1765 ⚔ ⚔ ⚔

⚔ I TO THE CHURCH THE LIVING CALL AND TO THE GRAVE DO
SUMMON ALL.

THOMAS BILBIE SENR. & THOMAS BILBIE JUNR.
FECIT ⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ⊙ ⚔ ⚔

In the days prior to "restorations" quaint verses, stating the rules and forfeits binding upon the ringers and visitors were to be found in many belfries all over the country. The lines differed in almost every tower, but nearly all included fines for swearing, overthrowing a bell, and ringing in spurs or hat; this last forfeit was probably intended to catch fine gentlemen who might swagger into a belfry to have a pull.

The following is a copy of the Rules which were once in the "Ringer's Loft" at Beaminster:—

"Let awfull silence trice proclaimed bee x x
Then praises given to ye Trinity x x x x
With love and honner pay unto ye King x x
Thus with a blessing rise ye cheerful ring x x

Hark how the chirping tribble sings it clear x
And capering Tom comes rolling in ye rear x
Hold up on end, or stay! come let us see x
What laws are best to keep sobriety x
So all consent and to this Law agree; x
Who swears or curse, or in an angry mood x
Quarils or striks altho' he draws no blood x
Who wears his Hat, or spurs, or turns a Bell x
Or by unskilful handling mars a peal x
Let him pay sixpence for each single crime x
'Twill make him causous 'gainst another time x
But if the Secston's fault an hindrance bee x
We crave from him a double penalty x x
Who doüs our parson disrespect x x x
Our Wardens' orders any time necleget x x
Let him be held in foul disgrace x x
And ever after banished this place x x x
Now round let's go with pleasure to ye ear x
And pierce with cheerful sound ye yielding air x
And when ye bells is cease, then let us sing x
God save ye Church, God Bless ye King x

Anno Dom. 1717."

"The original of the above is painted upon some Boards fixed against the South Wall in the Ringers' Loft in Beamister Church, Dorset—it is much defaced, but is here given, as nearly as possible verbatim. The original is written in the Old English character, the Capitals being *red* and the Other letters *black*."

From time immemorial one of the bells in the tower, at seven o'clock every night, tolled the "Curfew."*

This good old custom continued until 1868 when—payment for ringing being withheld—the curfew ceased, but

* The Curfew Bell is still rung at Sherborne, Yetminster and Stoke Abbott.

only for a short time, as one or two volunteers came forward for the nightly task. Their enthusiasm however gradually waned, and in 1870 the curfew bell was silenced,—may be for ever. Every morning at 5 o'clock, a bell was also rung,—probably a survival of the pre-reformation "Angelus bell,"—to awaken the factory hands of the town, but on the decline of the sail-cloth trade, the practice was discontinued about the year 1860.

In 1843 John Oliver (the Clerk) was paid Ten shillings for "ringing the Bell at 5 o'clock in the morn^s in the summer, and 7 o'clock in the even^s in the Winter."

The churchwardens' accounts furnish much information as to the ringing customs of the past. One of the earliest existing entries is—"1659 Gave ye Ringers y^e 5th Novemb. 2s."

Annual payments were made to the ringers for "Guy Fawkes Day," but the amount appears to have varied considerably.

1678 "Paid ye Ringers powder treason 2s. 6d."

1712 "Gave the Ringers Gunpowder Treason 10s."

The discovery of the Gunpowder Plot in 1605 was ordered by Parliament to be commemorated, and the bells were rung in Beaminster on each anniversary until recent times.*

St. George's Day—England's mythical patron saint was annually honoured with a peal on April 23rd—

1663 "Gave the Ringers St. George's Daie 2s."

1666 "Gave ye Rengers Saint Gorge day 2s. 6d."

The last entry for such a payment appears in 1839

"April 23rd Ringers St. George's Day 0 - 10 - 6."

Oak Apple Day—The return to England of King Charles II on the anniversary of his birthday, May 29th, 1660, was marked by much rejoicing, and at his restoration the bells were rung.

1660 "Pd. the Ringers when the King was pelaynd 5s."

1660 "Gave the Ringers when the King was crown'd 3s."

1660-1 "Gave the Ringers at the King's birthday 3s."

1663 "Gave the ringers the 29 of maie 2s. 6d."

1766 "May 29 To drink to ringers 0 - 10 - 6."

* The Fifth of November was annually celebrated in Beaminster by the kindling of a Bonfire in the Fore-Place and a display of fireworks, both of which were stopped by the Police in 1861.

Visitation Peals—It is usual and an old custom, to welcome the Bishop or his deputy with joyous peals.

- 1674 "Gave ye ringers when the Dean was in town 1s."
- 1688 "Gave ye ringers 2s. when ye Bishop came forth of tower."
- 1695 "For ringing the day the Bishop preached 7s."

Fair Peals—In many towns the bells were rung on the occasion of old established fairs, this was the custom here, when the ringers made a small charge to "country vo'k for going up the tower."*

- 1683 "Gave the Ringers the 9th of September 7s." [Fair day. Old style.]

In some villages the bells are still rung on the annual "Feast Day," *i.e.* the Saint's day to which the church is dedicated.

Vestry Bell—It was usual, until quite recently, to toll one of the smaller bells in the tower to summon a Vestry Meeting. Formerly at the annual Easter Vestry it appears a peal was rung.

- 1695 "Gave the Ringers on the counting day," 1s. 6d.
- 1708 "Gave ye Ringers ye accounting day," 2s.

Loyal and Thanksgiving peals are often referred to in the accounts—

- 1654 "gave toe the Ringers when peace was proclaymed bee-twine hollen and England 5s." [Cromwell's peace with Holland.]
- 1665 "Gave the Rengers at the Reiojsen day for ye Rout of ye Holleners 2s. 6d."

This entry refers to a naval victory off Lowestoft by an English Fleet commanded by James, Duke of York, brother of Charles II, over Opdam a Dutch Admiral, who with his ship, was blown up during the engagement.

- 1666 "Gave ye Rengers ye 7 of June at the route of the Hollener 2s."
- 1666 "Gave ye Rengers ye thanks geveing day being ye 23 of August at ye Route of ye Hollener 3s."
- 1667 "Gave the Ringers att the proclaiming of peace betwene the hollander and us 5s." [Peace of Breda.]
- 1684-5 "gave Ringers at proclayming ye King 5s." [James II.]
- 1685 "Gave the Ringers when King James was crowned 13s."
- 1690 "gave the Ringers ye Re Joyseing day 8s." [This entry may refer to the battle of the Boyne.]

* The ringing and visiting the tower on Fair day was stopped by the Rev. Canon Codd.

- 1696-7 "gave ye Ringers when peace was proclaimed 10s. 6d."
[Treaty of Ryswick.]
- 1701-2 "gave the Ringers when the Queen was proclaymed 10s."
[Queen Anne.]
- 1704 "gave ye Ringers when good news came from Spain 2s. 6d."
[This probably refers to the taking of Gibraltar.]
- 1706 "gave the rengers 17 June the day of thanksgiving for the
victory gained by the Duke of Marlbro at Ramellies, and for Renging
when the news was first brought 17s. 6d."
- 1707 "gave the Rengers the day of thanksgiving for the Union
of Scotland the 1st may 10s."
- 1708 "gave to ye Rengers when ye Victory at Oudenarde was
obtained 10s."
- 1709-10 "Gave the Ringers the rejoycing day for the Spanish
Vict. 00 - 10 - 00." [Battle of Malplaquet.]
- 1712-13 "Gave ye Ringers when Peace was Procla. 20s." [Peace
of Utrecht.]
- 1714 "Gave the Ringers the King's Coronation day 20s."
[George I.]

There are two payments of interest recorded during the last century, viz.—

- 1852 "Nov. 18th Minute bell for the late Duke of Wellington 8s."..
- 1854 "March 15th Minute Bell for the Late Bishop 5 Hours 10s."

In 1856 the following "Ringer's Account" was rendered to the Churchwardens—

April 15th Confermaton	..	..	..	10	6
May 24th Qu ^{ns} Birthday	..	..	..	10	6
May 26th Visitaion	..	..	..	1	1 0
May 29th Silibration of Peace	..	..	..	10	6
				Dew	2 12 6

The ringing of the "passing bell"—which in the eighteenth century gave place to the "death knell"—is peculiar to England, and is one of the earliest recorded uses to which church bells were put in this country.

The custom of tolling a bell on the death of an inhabitant still continues in Beaminster and is termed "minute bell." After the toll has ceased the sex of the departed is indicated by "tellers" or strokes, thus—3 threes for a male* and 2 threes for a female.

Ringling the old year out and the new year in by midnight peals is almost now a universal custom.

* The saying "nine tailors make a man" is a corruption of "nine tellers mark a man."

In Beaminster on New Year's Eve several "open" peals are rung until 10 o'clock, then for about an hour the bells are half muffled, but during the last hour of the fleeting year a "dumb peal" announces its near departure. During an interval a short service is held in the belfry,* and at midnight the ringer of the tenor tolls the age of the passing year. The "mufflers" having been removed from the clappers, a joyous peal heralds the advent of a New Year.

The Bell-Ringing Guild was constituted on its present basis in 1873. In 1912 the paying of ringers was discontinued.

Captains :—

1873. Thomas Patten Coombs.

1884. John Barratt Dunn.

1903. William Benjamin Newman.

During the month of October, 1877, it was decided to hold a Festival to celebrate the "successful accomplishment" of the tower restoration. But on the night of Sunday, October 14th, a disastrous gale swept over the tower; two of the larger pinnacles on the parapet, caught by the violence of the storm, were hurled down on the pavement below and shattered to pieces. Much damage was also done to some of the smaller pinnacles and to portions of the parapet.

This damage necessitated a postponement of the festival and considerable expense in restoring the "restored" work. After months of delay a Festival of Parish Choirs was held in the church on June 18th, 1878, to commemorate the completion of the restoration of the tower. The sermon on that occasion was preached by the Venerable Archdeacon Lear, a brother-in-law of Bishop Hamilton.

The total cost of the restoration was about £1,200, of which amount nearly £1,000—including a donation of £200 from Lady Oglander—was subscribed by the landowners and parishioners of Beaminster.

During the past twenty-five years much money has been expended in repairing damaged pinnacles, demonstrating the fact that the work done at the restoration in 1877-8 was anything but satisfactory.

To-day, however, we can look at Beaminster Tower

* Gas laid on to the Belfry, 1903.

judiciously restored to its original magnificence, and feel justly proud that it is "unrivalled in the County and worth a pilgrimage to see."

Of the original Church of Beaminster nothing is now known, and tradition has no memory. If Saxon, all traces of that building are now hidden, if of the Norman period, the last link probably disappeared with the ancient font, removed in 1862.

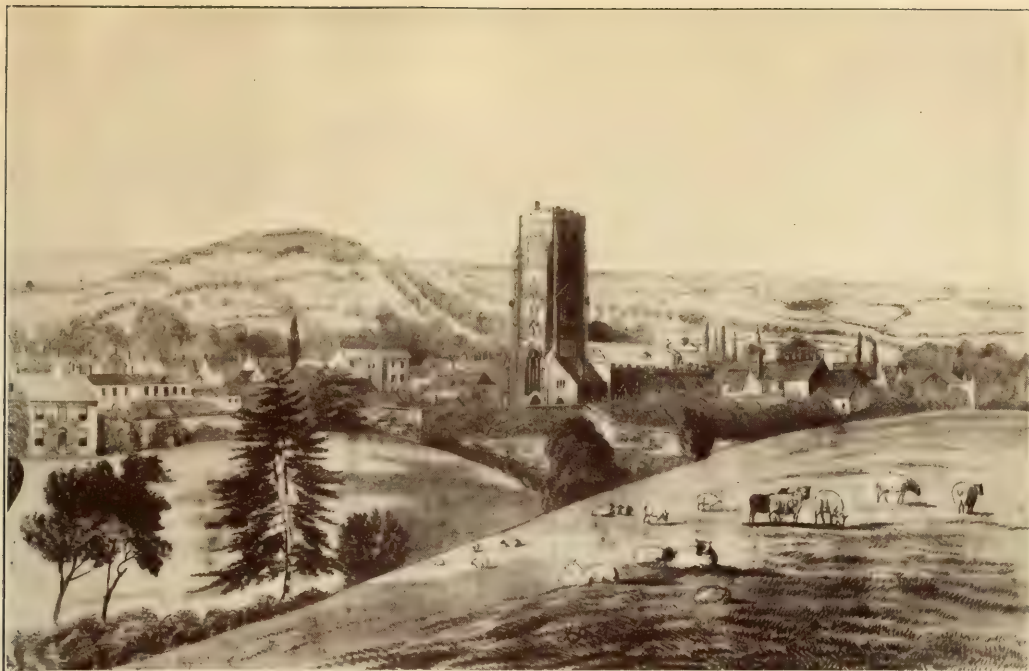
The Church of to-day—dedicated to the Nativity of the Virgin Mary—consists of a chancel, nave of five bays, north and south aisles, together with a chapel at the eastern end of the north aisle, and a "mort-house," now a continuation of the south aisle at its western extremity. The following extract is from the Churchwardens' account book, 1646-1719—"This Church was very probably dedicated to the Virgin Mary, for her statue, and no Saint else, is cut in stone at the west and most conspicuous end, and the annual and only Fayre of the Towne is held y^e 8th of September the day of her Nativity; fayres beinge (as it is observed) usually kept on the saints day to which y^e Church of y^e place is dedicated."

There is little to call for especial note in the external parts of the building. The parapet on the north aisle and chantry chapel is plain, while that of the south is embattled with the exception of the extension known as the mort-house. There are the characteristic gargoyles and buttresses; two of which latter differ in shape and size from the others, these support the north wall.

"It has been thought, with some probability, that this wall belonged to an older Church, and was built in the early part of the XIV, or late in the XIII century, at a period when the 'Decorated' style of architecture prevailed,—windows of later character being put in, and new buttresses added, when the Church was re-built about a hundred years afterwards."* The walls of the mort-house may be of the same date, but much of the ancient architecture of this building has disappeared; the arch connecting it with the south aisle, probably is of the thirteenth century.

The chancel of the church and the mort-house are roofed with stone tiles, the nave and aisles are covered with lead. The term mort-house appears to be a modern appellation,

* Rev. A. A. Leonard—*Parish Magazine*, April, 1902.



BEAMINSTER. Looking North East.

(From a drawing by Abel Bugler, *circa* 1845)



BEAMINSTER CHURCH.

(From a drawing by Abel Bugler, *circa* 1845).

as nowhere in the old church books is it so called. It is somewhat difficult to determine the original purpose of this building. J. B. Russell says—"Adjoining to the Tower on the south side is a small building which was for many years used for a Lumber House." In 1818 the room over it—which was approached from the churchyard by a flight of stone steps, and known as the "school-house"—was by order of Vestry, at the suggestion of the Dean of Sarum, made into a Minister's Vestry. At the same time "the Belfry adjoining was furnished with Forms for the accommodation of the Children belonging to the Sunday Schools." Here "twentie of the poorest Boyes" of the parish, were once educated, according to the will of Frances Tucker.* She probably endowed an existing school, for we infer from the churchwardens' accounts, that a part of the church had been used for scholastic purposes prior to her bequest.

1651. "Pay^d to the Joynner for boarding the window att
the west end of y^e schoole 0 - 2 - 6."
1663. "To Mr Collent for a planche and a Raile to make
formes for the schoolhouse 0 - 5 - 0."
1713. Three Guineas were paid "for tyles for y^e school-
house."

No doubt a portion of the *south* gallery was also appropriated, this is indicated by the following entry—

- "1654 Rec. for a seate under the coole house 0 - 0 - 8."

The *west* gallery at that date had not been built.

In the "lumber house" the sexton kept his grave-digging tools, planks, and coffin stools, hence the name "mort-house."

In the roof of the nave, until 1862, square headed two-light dormer windows remained, one on the north and the other on the south side, at the junction of the chancel. These windows—relics of pre-reformation days—once admitted light to the rood loft, and in later years to the galleries, are shown in old prints of the church.

The north porch is a modern structure of "debased" character, rebuilt in 1830 at a cost of £100. Some idea of the old porch it replaced may be obtained from a print published in Hutchins' *History of Dorset*.

* See Chapter VI.

The doorway arch erected in 1862 is supported by two ancient corbels.

On the south side of the church, in the angle between the aisle and the chancel is a projection—the rood-loft staircase turret—forming part of a buttress, a lower stone of which has the Early English dog-tooth ornamentation, the moulding appears to date from the thirteenth century.

Affixed to the outside wall, near the south door, are two brasses removed from the interior of the building; they are inscribed—

(1) Here lieth the Body
 of Joseph Symes Gen^t
 who departed this life
March 27th 1776 Aged 75 Years
 also the Body of Frances
 his Wife who departed this
 life September 9th 1737
 Aged 47 Years.

(2) Here lies the
 Body of
 Elizth Smitham
 who dept^d this life
 Dec^r 30th 1773
 Aged 61 Years.

A third brass tablet, bearing the following inscription, has been removed—

“Here lies the Body of the Rev^d Edmund Lewis, who departed this life Jan 16th 1766. Aged 40 years.”

For many years the interior of the Church was disfigured by three unsightly galleries. From a Churchwardens' book we learn that the north gallery was erected about the year 1657, for on April 11th of that year “by the consent of the Parrishers of the Parrish of Beaminster - - - Henry Hillary thelder, William Mills, Samuell Hallett, John Collant, James Keate thelder, and Lancelott Keate thelder, par-rishoners of the said Parrish should bee instructed & have power to erect and build a new Gallery in the North part of the Church for the better accomodation of y^e Parrishoners & should have power to sell the said seates for the raysing of the money disbursed in the building. It is now fully agreed & Consented unto by us the Parishoners of the Parrish afores^d That all such Seates as are sold - - - shall bee and remaine firme & good to the persons that

have bought the same & to their Assignes for ever paying or tendring to be payd before Witnesse, on every assignement or alienation to bee entred by the Churchwardens for the time being on the Church booke foure pence of currant English Money w^{ch} shall bee and remaine to the use of the Church - - - & in case of noe Assignement or Alienacōn entred in the booke or y^e sume abovesaid by witnesse proved to be tendered, then att the death of any such party his Seate to remayne to the Church to bee sold by the Churchwardens - - - Provided always that if the successor of any dying not making any Assignment, come within a Moneth and tender & pay 4 pence to the Churchwardens for the time being, then that such successour is according to the Custome of the Church to enjoy such seate.

Witnes our Hands the day & yeare above written.

John Strode	John Russell	Bernard Painter
Tho ^s Hitt	Anthony Nottly	Will ^m Ireland."

In the book follow the names of the persons who bought seats in this North Gallery which contained sittings for both men and women. The whole sum received for the different seats was £30 5s. *od.*

J. B. Russell, writing *circa* 1790, says—"The Gallery of the Church goes all across it from north to south and extends in breadth from the west wall to the first pillar. The two old Galleries were against the North and South walls, but they were removed somewhat more than Forty years ago, and the new Gallery was built in their room, and indeed in a much more suitable place."

From the Churchwarden's account book of the period, it appears that the *new* west gallery, above mentioned, was erected in 1696, for during that year payments were entered "for seats in the new loft." There is also a list of about forty names "of those that hath Subscribe to the Building of the new Singing Larte." The "two old Galleries" were probably in being about the middle of the seventeenth century, for in 1662 Charles Stodly paid four pence "for a Roome in the second Row eastward in the Gallery in the second seat of that Row w^{ch} was John Russell's."

During the year 1828, galleries were again built in both the north and south aisles, at a cost of £458, which sum included "raising the West Gallery." The one erected

against the north wall extended the whole length of the aisle, and was lit by two windows in the roof.* The south or men's gallery, as it was called, continued only as far eastward as the Strode monument. It was lighted by a lantern, which is shewn in an old print of the church. This gallery contained free sittings for the use of the poor.

The pews in the north gallery were sold by the churchwardens at a public auction, and those not disposed of at the sale were let by them, or privately sold later.

Throughout the Churchwarden's book are frequent entries of payments for seats. From 1765 to 1822 the amounts charged being nearly always 1s. *per sitting* on the ground floor, and 4d. *per sitting* in the gallery—paid once only during a person's occupation of the sitting. There are earlier entries, viz.—

- “ 1651. Sold to Robert Henly Esq^r the Isle that was Mr. Hopkins for his Sonne Mr. Robert Henly 13/4.”
 “ 1651. Received of Lancellott Cox for the seate w^{ch} was the widdow Seaboarne's, for his wife Mary 1/-.”

In 1848 the Church afforded seating accommodation for nine hundred and eighty-six persons, viz.—

North Aisle	177
Nave	130
South Aisle	136
North-east Chapel	32
Chancel	42
Sir William Oglander's Pew	52
Tower (children)	60
North Gallery	173
South Gallery	137
Middle Gallery	47
	<hr/>
Total	986

In the principal gallery at the west end—lit by two skylights—was located a large mixed choir, accompanied by an orchestra of six instruments, viz. a flute, two fiddles, two hautboys and a bass viol.

In the centre of this gallery was “a picture of David playing on a Harp painted by a Mr. Oliver of this Town.”†

* See page 31.

† The writer has recently seen at Crewkerne, in the possession of Mrs. Jas. Wheatley (*née* Oliver), a picture which answers this description; it bears a date and the artist's signature—I. Oliver 1737. In all probability this is the picture above mentioned, it was no doubt rescued by the painter's family when discarded from the Church. The present owner is a great-great-grand-daughter of the artist.

Probably this painting disappeared about the year 1836 when a small organ—from the Church at Charmouth*—was placed in the gallery, which ousted—much to the chagrin of the musicians—the “wold church band.”

In the Churchwarden's accounts for 1767 there is an entry “May y^e 12th Gave Geo. Vile for playing the Bass Viol in Church 2s.” Richard Symes in 1768 “Gave towards buying a Bass Viol for Beamister Church 7s. 6d.”

No reference is made in any of the books to the purchase of the organ; it may have been procured by private subscription.

There is an entry in a Churchwarden's Account Book, dated January 5th, 1839, “Paid Mr. Waygood for Repair of the Organ 2/3” In 1845 an Organist was appointed and paid by voluntary subscriptions.†

The arch behind the organ was boarded up in 1852, this partition shut off the “ringer's lart” from the west gallery.

“Underneath the ‘new gallery’ were the seats of poor People, and in the alley leading towards the Belfry door,‡ there lie buried the following clergymen—William Stevenson and Edmund Lewis, B.A.; he was sometime Curate of this Church, and lies by the side of Dr. Stevenson, under a flat stone without any inscription. He died on Monday 6th of January 1766, about six in the evening.” The brass mentioned on page 32 was no doubt taken from this “flat stone.”

Immediately behind this gallery, and lighted by the upper part of the large west window, was the belfry, or “ringer's larte,” erected in 1765. “At an adjournment of a Vestry held the 4th of July, 1765, for repairing the Roof of the Tower & makeing or building a new Loft in the Tower for ringing the bells its agreed that Daniel Symes & Richard Sanders be Employ'd to do the said work for three pounds agreeable to their proposals

[Signed] George Eveleigh
Jam^s Daniel
Bishop Dunning
John Tucker
Thomas Bozie.”

* In 1836 Charmouth Church was entirely rebuilt.

† John Barratt Dunn was organist 1849 to 1889.

‡ Walled up in 1862.

It is difficult to fix with certainty the exact date of the building of the principal parts of the church. The Rev. A. A. Leonard in the *Parish Magazine*, says—"Of the main part of the church—the chancel, the nave with its arches, and the aisles, and probably the lower part of the tower—all this is of Perpendicular style, a style, by the way, of which the English people may be justly proud, for not only are the buildings of this character generally exceedingly graceful and beautiful, but we have the style entirely to ourselves. It is a peculiar product of our country. Nowhere out of Britain is a Perpendicular building to be found, except in the Channel Islands, and in Calais, a town which, it will be remembered, was our last continental possession. What, then, is the date of this main part of our church of Beaminster? We cannot tell with any certainty. No records of the building of this part of the Church exist. We have to judge solely by the appearance of the existing buildings; and here we are met by the difficulty that the Perpendicular style continued to be built for at least 170 years,—from 1380 to 1550. During this period, the character of the style was gradually changing; for it began in the height of the palmy days of the Gothic architecture, and towards the middle of the 16th Century the work had become far less graceful and less pure in style—more 'debased' as it is called; but owing to local varieties of style and other peculiarities, it is often difficult to fix the age of a building of this date to within 100 years. Now there is very little which is 'debased' about the work in Beaminster Church; so we may assign it to a period not later than the end of the 15th century. The latter part of that century seems indeed to be the traditional date of the building, but it has been assigned by at least one expert to the closing years of the 14th century. We would do best perhaps to strike a mean and conclude that the nave and chancel were built between 1440 and 1460."

The aisles are divided from the nave by five pointed arches on each side; the three western are probably earlier than the two eastern, and undoubtedly display superior skill in the moulding and sculpture. The three western piers are embellished with carving on the capitals, known as "Devonshire foliage" representing vine leaves and grapes; such entwinement being not uncommon in the churches of Devon. The two other capitals are quite

plain. The lofty chancel and tower arches have panelled soffits resembling those of Sherborne Abbey. The eastern extension of the north aisle, known as "Hillary's Aisle," was no doubt built as a Chapel for the use of a Chantry priest, who officiated at an altar here erected. This addition to the Church was made very early in the sixteenth century, at the time of the building of the tower. The depressed arch and cramped tracery of the window on the north side, show at once that this portion of the church is later than the rest.

A parclose screen, dividing the chancel from the Hillary Chapel, erected by William Clark, was removed in 1825 by vote of Vestry, on the ground "that it interrupted the Minister's voice while reading communion service, and hindered persons attending to receive the sacrament." On each side of the east window of this aisle, are stone projections from the wall;* that on the north side appears to be the base of a double niche for two images, the other is a plain Ham-stone ledge. In the south wall there is a pointed arched cavity containing a stone shelf.

J. B. Russell says—"The old 'cupboard' there makes it appear clearly to me that it [the chapel] was formerly for a Chantry Priest to officiate in, to pray for the soul of the Builder thereof."

Hutchins refers to it as "a plain pointed piscina in the usual position."

It is however somewhat difficult to decide if the opening is really a piscina, or a walled-up squint, which originally opened into the chancel of the church. Possibly it served the double purpose, as there are churches in which may still be seen chantry piscinas that are also hagioscopes.

Beneath the paving stones in this Chapel are interred several generations of the Hillary and allied families. Of the "many ancient Inscriptions on Brass," which marked their graves, three only remain. These brasses were ruthlessly removed during the restoration of the church, 1861-2, and having been "lost" for nearly fifty years, they were recently sold by public auction in the town, with other pieces of old metal. The purchaser however

* Probably the remains of an altar.

was good enough to return them to the Vicar for replacement. The tablets are inscribed—

- I. HERE LIETH THE BODY OF ANN THE WIFE OF
HENRY HILLARY OF MEERHAY WHO DIED
THE 16th OF FEBVARI AÑO DÕNI 1653

TIS NOT BECAUSE THIS WOMAN'S VERTVE DY'S
THAT THE BRASS TELLS VS HERE ANN HILLARY LY'S
HER NAME'S LONG LIV'D—SHEE IS IN THIS COMENDED
THE POORE CRY OVT THEYR HILLARY TERM IS ENDED

- II. HEERE LYETH THE BODY OF ELIZA-
BETH WIFE OF M^r WILLIAM MILLS AND
DAUGHTER OF M^r IOHN HILLARY OF
MEERHAY WHO DYED IANUARY THE 18th
AÑO. DÕM. 1674. *Ætatis suæ 53.* ☿ ☿ ☿

- III. In Memory of William Mills*
Esq^r of Meerhay & Mary his Wife
He Died May y^e 6th 1760 Aged 82
She Died May y^e 31st 1771, Aged 95.

This Brass is unfortunately cut, the lower part is now missing. It may have borne the following, as Hutchins says the inscription was once on a stone in the Hillary Chapel—

“ Here lyeth y^e body of Mrs. Ann Hillary
Who departed y^a life
The twentie-fifth day of March
Anno Domini 1700.”

Over the north window of this chapel was a board painted white, lettered in black, inscribed—

This Isle was Built
by Mr. John Hillary, of Meerhay,
in the 20th Year of the Reign of King Henry
the 7th—in the Year of our Lord 1505,
And beautified by Mrs. Mary Mills, of
Meerhay, in the Year 1767. Repaired,
and newly covered with Lead by
William Clarke of Beaminster, Esq^r
In the Year 1794.

* This William Mills was Sheriff of Dorset, but his estates were not considerable.

The wooden tablet bearing this "modern inscription placed in room of one more ancient," fell from the wall a few years ago, but is still preserved. In its place, although not in the same position, has been erected a brass plate—

This Chapel was Built
By Mr. John Hillary of Meerhay
In the Year of our Lord 1505
Beautified by Mrs. Mary Mills, of
Meerhay in the Year 1767
Repaired and newly covered with lead by
William Clark of Beaminster, Esquire,
In the year 1794.
Restored and entirely re-roofed by
Mary, Widow of Samuel Symes Cox,
A Lieut. Col. in H.M's 56th Regiment,
Of the Manor House, Beaminster
In the year 1898.

The new roof that replaced the original, of which it is an exact copy, is of oak, very massive and substantially erected by local workmen. In days gone by this chapel was not kept in repair by the parish, but by the owners of Meerhay Farm,* formerly belonging to the family of Hillary. The estate, on this account was discharged from church-rates.

It appears the Hillary Aisle or Chapel remained unappropriated until 1848, when the Sunday-school children were located there. This "intrusion" was resented by Miss Mary Clarke, who, claiming to be the owner of the aisle, ordered through her solicitor, the removal of the children. Probably this command was obeyed for in 1852, April 13th, "The Minister, Churchwardens and Inhabitants in vestry assembled acknowledge that the permission this day given by Mr. Thomas Russell agent of Miss Mary Clarke of Burton Bradstock, Dorset, for the Girls of the Beaminster Sunday School & their Teachers to sit in the Aisle called Hillary's Aisle in Beaminster Church, is by Licence only, & that the aisle prescriptively belongs to the said Mary Clarke as the owner of the ancient messuage at Lower Meerhay Farm in this parish, & they undertake to remove the said Sunday School Girls & all seats to be placed in the said Aisle when

* The picturesque old house still remains at Lower Meerhay. In one of its windows may be seen a piece of painted glass inscribed "H. H. 1610." This house once contained much stained glass which was removed about the year 1770 and placed in the windows of Mapperton Church.

required so to do by the said Mary Clarke or other person or persons interested in the said Aisle."

A parclose-screen which once divided the east end of the south aisle from the other parts of the church was removed in 1658. This enclosed another chantry chapel, founded by Robert Grey about the year 1407; all that now remains is the trefoil arched piscina, with its pyramidal hood, the supporting shafts are gone. In this recess the priest who officiated at the altar rinsed with water the chalice after celebrating mass.

Hutchins, referring to this chantry gives the following account—"8 Henry IV, it was found not to the King's damage if he granted licence to Robert Grey of Bemynstre to give two messuages, forty acres of arable, twelve acres of meadow, and ten acres of wood, with appurtenances, in Bemynstre, in mortmain, for the maintenance of a chaplain to celebrate daily at the altar of the Blessed Mary and St. Inthware in the church of St. Mary of Bemynstre for ever for the good estate of the said Robert and Christian his wife during their lives, and for their souls when they have departed from this light, and for the souls of their fathers, mothers, brethren, and sisters, for the souls of their ancestors and benefactors, and for the souls of all the faithful deceased."*

In the year 1408 one William Vale appears to have been the officiating priest. Two rectors only of this chantry occur in the Sarum registers, though it seems to have been a very considerable one. (1) Walter Salke, chaplain, exchanged with John Aleyn, Vicar of Porestock, priest of the chantry of St. Mary and Inthware in the prebendal Church of Bemynster 1421,† instituted 5th October. (2) John Napper, chaplain, exchanged with John Comeland, priest to ditto 1429.‡

Saint Inthware was no ordinary personage. It is recorded that "her owne broder in a fury stroke of her heed whiche heed she her self toke up before hym & all his people and there sprange up a well & a grene tree growyng thereby, than bare she her heed in to the chirche, were after shewed many grete myracles."

* Pat. Rot. 8 Hen. IV, pt. i, M 17.

† Reg. Chandler.

‡ Hutchins' *History of Dorset*.

In England, July 13th was regarded the feast day of the saint.

"In 1 Edward VI a chantry in this chapel value £6 : 3 : 4, out of which were paid rents resolute 12*d.* remainder, received by John Mintern, incumbent, to his own use, no preacher, grammar-school, or poor to be relieved out of it. Belonging to the chapel was a chalice of 7oz. weight, and certain ornaments valued at 8*s.* 4*d.* 3 Edward VI the capital mansion of this chantry was granted to Sir Michael Stanhope and John Bellow. On the site of it Strode's almshouse was afterwards built. 3 Jac. I. thirty-five acres of land belonging to it were granted to John Halsey, etc. A part of the chantry land was anciently held by the Derbies of Beaminster, since by the Wilmots."*

There is a small farm in the parish which still bears the name of "Chantry Farm."

It was a common practice in pre-Reformation times, for wealthy persons to erect chantry-chapels, the endowment of which secured the prayers of the priest on behalf of the departed founders. Daily mass was said or *chantered* (hence their name) for the repose of their souls at the altar there erected. This was necessary, as at the high altar of the church, private masses were not allowed.

At the suppression of chantries, in 1547, the Rector of this chantry was John Mintern, whose annual pension is stated in the *Certificates of Colleges and Chantries*—preserved at the Record Office—to have been £5 11*s.* 2*d.*

An Act for the dissolution of the lesser monasteries was passed in 1530. Under that Act the ornaments, jewels, and goods belonging to these establishments were given to the King [Henry VIII].

This was followed in 1545 by the issue of a Commission for the survey of the goods of chantries, chapels and guilds. These Acts of the Privy Council led to a feeling of insecurity for the safety of Church property generally, and created the fear that the plate and other valuables belonging to parochial churches would be dealt with in the same way as the valuables of monastic establishments had been, and much plate and other treasure were secreted in consequence, and no doubt much was embezzled.

* Hutchins' *History of Dorset*.

Ostensibly to check the alienation of Church property, a Commission was issued in 1547 to the Bishops requiring a return of Church goods to be made from each diocese, so that the goods might be "preserved for the use of the church"; and persons who had removed church goods were to restore them to the church again. This was preparatory to the Commission issued February 15th, 1549, to the Sheriffs and Justices of the Peace in each County, requiring them "to call before them the parson, or vicar, or curate, and churchwardens, and, with three or four of the discretest and most substantial men of each parish to make a true inventory of all vestments, plate, jewels, and bells, and to leave one inventory in each parish, subscribed with the hands of these persons, who were to have the charge of the goods, so that they might be safely kept and preserved." A copy of the inventory was to be sent to the *custos rotulorum* of each county.

On March 3rd, 1551, an order was issued by the Privy Council addressed to all shires, "to take into the Kinges handes suche plate as remaineth, to be employed unto his highness use." On January 29th, 1552, a letter was addressed to the *Custos rotulorum* requiring him to deliver the inventories of the church goods, taken in 1549, which were in his custody to the Commissioners then about to be appointed. A year later, January 16th, 1553, another Commission was appointed to see that the instructions given to the former Commission had been carried out, and to collect the money, plate, and jewels certified under it. Six months later the King [Edward VI] died.

On the accession of Mary, an order was given that where possible, church goods were to be restored to the churches. ". . . . In Dorset, as in some other counties, the Commissioners had been dilatory, and had not completed their work at the time of the issue of this order, for Dorset was one of the counties to which the order was sent, and in a few of the inventories of church goods suits of vestments were left, as well as surplices, for the use of the church, though this may have been done before the Queen's accession, and in anticipation of such an order which it was expected would then be made What became of the church goods taken into the King's hands? The jewels, plate, and ready money (were) to be delivered to the Master of the King's Jewels in the Tower of London; the copes of cloth of gold and tissue to be brought into the King's

wardrobe ; the rest to be turned into ready money, and that money to be paid to Sir Edmond Peckham, the King's cofferer, for the defraying of the charges of His Majesty's household."

Heylyn, writing in 1661, believed that by far the greater and the best part of the church goods were embezzled and disposed of privately, "so that although some profit was hereby raised to the King's exchequer, yet the far greatest part of the prey came to other hands, insomuch that many private men's parlours were hung with altar-cloths ; their tables and beds covered with copes, instead of carpets and coverlids, and many made carousing cups of the sacred challices, as once Belshazzar celebrated his drunken feast in the sanctified vessels of the Temple"

*Inventory of Church Goods, 1552.**

The Parishe of Bemynster.

Fyrst, ii challices, i all gylt thother parcell gylt, vi payre of vestementes, i of rosset veluet, i of blewe veluet, i of whyt satten of brydges, i of blacke say, i of blacke sarsenet, i of Dornex,† with Decon & subdecon of crymsen veluet, ii copes, i of Tynsell, i of whyt satten of brydges, iii Table clothes of lynnyn, i candelstick of bras, ii surplices, i bell in the Tower.

To thuse of the churche—Appoynted by the saide comyssioners, the worst challes ; i cope of whyt satten of brydges, with all the Table clothes & surplices. The resydewe of all the premisses, to the custody of these men vndre wrytten

‡Sir John Newman vicar there
James Danyell
John Hyllary

Robert Turner
Thomas rodburd
William Hoskens
John Mason.

The "worst challes," allowed by the Commissioners to be retained by the Parishioners of Beaminster in 1552, has long since disappeared, perchance melted down, or disposed of by the authorities for repairs or other expenses.

The plate now in the Church comprises—

Chalice No. I, of plain design, on slender baluster stem 10½ins. high ; bearing the hall mark, apparently of 1706, and the maker's mark A. W. Chalice No. II, height 6½ins., of similar plain shape, with a band of key ornament round the bowl ; hall mark 1797 and the maker's mark R°. Two

* *Proceedings Dorset Field Club*, Vols. XXV and XXVI.

† A coarse kind of damask used for hangings and coverings, originally made at Dornick, which is the Flemish name of Tournay.

‡ The term "Sir" was formerly applied to the inferior clergy, *i.e.* those who had not graduated at either of the Universities.

small Patens, $6\frac{3}{4}$ ins. diameter, with ornamental borders, hall mark 1749, and the maker's mark W. P. for William Peaston. Two massive Flagons each $12\frac{1}{2}$ ins. high, bearing the hall mark of 1749 and inscribed together with the Patens, "I. H. S. The Gift of Geo. Strode Esq^r of Parnham, Dorsett, to y^e Parish Church of Beauminster 1749."

A silver Alms-dish, $14\frac{1}{2}$ ins. diameter, inscribed—

"To the Glory of God

St. Mary's Beaminster 1877.

The Gift of Samuel Symes Cox and Mary his wife."

The two Cromwellian flagons purchased in 1652 (according to the following entry in the Churchwardens' book: "Payd for two flagones for the Church use att the sacra^m 00 . 16 . 06 ") have disappeared. They were probably of no mean capacity, as in the Churchwardens' accounts of this period "14 quarts of wyne for two sacraments 00 - 18 - 08 " is charged.

* * * * *

There are two other piscinas in Beaminster church ; one is built into the south wall of the east end of the chancel, and placed within a plain pointed niche, in which also is a stone ledge or credence-shelf, on which were placed the cruets containing the holy oil. The other is in the wall of the south aisle near the piscina which was once in the Chapel founded by Robert Grey.

Close to the doorway in the wall of the north aisle may still be seen a holy-water basin or stoup, another survival of pre-Reformation days.

At the eastern end of the south aisle there is an entrance to a stone staircase through an arched doorway, four feet from the ground floor. This stairway—which was probably reached by a step-ladder—winds up through the wall to an opening, now blocked, whereby the Roodloft was approached. Built into the wall on the inside of this staircase, is a carved stone with "dog-tooth" moulding, corresponding exactly and of the same date, as the stone-work on the buttress before mentioned.*

Probably these thirteenth century relics are fragments of the church demolished when the present one was erected.

* See page 32.

The Roodloft was a narrow gallery extending across the space spanned by the chancel arch. The Rood always bore a figure or painting of Christ upon the cross, and was usually accompanied by figures on either side representing the Virgin Mary and St. John. This Rood was placed in the loft before which lights were kept burning, especially during festivals. Probably only in large churches the Gospel and Epistle were chanted from the Roodloft at high mass.

The Roodscreen stood beneath, and divided the chancel from the nave; it was often beautifully carved, and in some few churches it has escaped the destroyer's hand.

Roodlofts do not appear to have been erected in English parish churches before the fourteenth century, and were not general before the fifteenth century.

Queen Elizabeth issued an order for the removal of Roods in 1560. Previously they had been taken down by order of King Edward VI, in 1548, but were re-erected by Queen Mary, his successor.

At the side of the entrance to the Roodloft staircase is a plain hagioscope or squint, the head of which forms the under part of the stairs. This aperture enabled worshippers, who occupied the eastern end of the south aisle to witness the elevation of the host at the altar, an important part of the pre-Reformation service. After being hidden for 130 years, both the hagioscope and the staircase doorway, were once more exposed to view by the removal in 1877, of the monument erected to the memory of Thomas Strode to its present position.

In the south aisle was once a massive blue marble tomb erected to the memory of Sir John Tone, who, according to Hutchins, "died on a journey, and seems to have been an ecclesiastic." Tradition states that he was a Knight of Malta. About 150 years ago the tomb was "removed," but the covering marble slab—its polished surface now much chipped—"is laid in the alley opposite the place where the Tomb stood." The brass it bears, possibly dating from the fifteenth century, is inscribed in church text—

Pray for the soule of S^r John Tone whos body lyth berid under
this tombe on whos soule Jhu haue mercy A pat'nost' & aue

It is to be regretted that this memorial tablet—the oldest in the church—by being constantly trodden by

careless feet is fast becoming obliterated, perhaps it will some day be transferred to a place of greater security.

" Affixed to the wall near this tomb were the King's Arms painted on wood, which were done in the Reign of James y^e Second Anno Dom. 1686."*

The Royal Arms continued to occupy a position in the church until the general clearance in 1862. It was shortly after the removal of roodlofts and screens that royal arms were set up, but during the Commonwealth they were generally taken down and removed from churches. The date of the first erection of royal arms in Beaminster church is not known, the earliest entry extant refers probably to their re-erection at the commencement of Charles II's reign—

" 1661 P^d Henry Clarke for settinge upp of the scaffolk about
y^e King's armes 00 - 01 - 06 "

" 1661 P^d W^m. Lacke in full for y^e Armes 02 - 00 - 00."

A few years later it seems that the "Liorns" underwent restoration.

" 1677-8 gave to the men that framed the Liorns 00 - 01 - 06.
pd William pinter for carring y^e Lyon to Church 00.00.06.
paid Hinery Peach & his men for 3 days worke for Leting
in the bolsters to bare y^e Liorns 00 . 06 . 00.
paid George James for Boolts & clamps for y^e Liorns
00 . 16 . 00."

On the accession of James II the King's Arms received further attention.

" 1684 pd for an order of changing y^e nams of King Charles to
K. Jams 00 - 01 - 00.

1686 paid John Clerke for makeing y^e frame for the King's
Armes & other worke done about the church 02 - 12 - 04."

The walls of the church in olden times also bore many other decorations in the form of painted hatchments. It was the universal custom, on the death of a noble inhabitant to place over the family pew an escutcheon, bearing the arms of the deceased.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, at least sixteen hatchments were hanging in the church ; the preference for cold, dull and uninteresting wall-spaces is a growth of comparatively modern times.

* J. B. Russell's MS.

"In the year 1600 the following coats of arms were in the parishes church of Bemyster.*

- I. A chevron between three martlets.
- II. Ermine, on a canton a crescent, *Strode*.
- III. A chevron between three martlets impaling a fess, and in chief three roundels.
- IV. Strode, impaling a wyvern.
- V. Strode, impaling, Quarterly, 1 and 4 a fess, 2 and 3 a bend between six crosslets fitchée.
- VI. Strode, impaling a chevron between three talbot's heads erased, *Ledred*.
- VII. Strode, impaling a fess.
- VIII. Strode, impaling four fusils in fess, each charged with an escallop, *Cheyney*.
- IX. Strode, impaling a chevron between three estoiles.
- X. Strode, impaling a fess parti indented and cotised, *Hody*.
- XI. Quarterly, 1 and 4 a dolphin embowed, 2 and 3 a cross flory ; impaling Strode.
- XII. Hody impaling Strode.
- XIII. Quarterly of six : I, Strode ; II, Quarterly, 1 and 4 a fess, 2 and 3 a bend ; III, A lion rampant, debriused by a bend ; IV, A chevron between three ermine-spots ; V, A wyvern ; VI, Erm. on a chevron three mullets.
- XIV. Quarterly of four : 1 [and 4 ?] three roundels and a label, *Courteney* ; 2 [and 3 ?] Quarterly, 1 and 4 three lions rampant, 2 and 3 six mullets pierced, three and three [Note.—The third and fourth quarters are blank in the MS.]
- XV. Three swords their points meeting in base, a crescent for difference, *Paulet* ; impaling, On a fess between three birds three mullets.
- XVI. On a bend indented cotised three fleurs-de-lis ; impaling, On a bend between two mullets three trefoils slipped, on a chief a bird between two feathers or nails [?] "

In the early part of the last century two hatchments containing the arms of the Merefield family were in the north aisle placed above their burial vault.

During the Middle Ages churches were almost destitute of seats ; the stone benches which ran around the walls were provided for old and infirm worshippers, and the "weakest went to the wall." In mediæval times it was the regular custom to stand or kneel during the whole of the service. After the Reformation a great deal more attention was paid to preaching and hearing sermons, so wooden benches were introduced ; these were of oak, and some of the Jacobean seat-ends were so much enriched by carving as to make them elaborate works of art. About the com-

* MS. Harl., 1427, f. 50b.

mencement of the seventeenth century benches were gradually superseded by pews, high built and shut in with doors to keep off draughts, for in those days churches were not heated, although the services were very long, for sermons generally lasted for *one or two hours*.

People grew to be very particular as to where they sat in church, and to have a seat in accordance with their dignity and importance. The great people of the parish seemed to try to outdo each other in the height and decoration of their pews; some had canopies to them like an old-fashion four-post bedstead, and were hung round with curtains. Gradually the whole floor space got filled with pews* of various sizes and shapes, some of the more pretentious even had fire places in them. In consequence of the room occupied by these appropriated pews, it became necessary to increase the seating accommodation by erecting galleries.

The following particulars have been extracted from the Churchwardens' Book 1646-1719.

"Bee it Remembred that on the 16th day of April 1658 it was Consented unto and agreed by us the Churchwardens for y^e time being and the Rest of the Parishioners of the Parish of Beaminster that all y^e Ground now bought by John Strode Esquire of Parnham in the parish aforesaid in the Middle of the Church afores^d betweene the Chancell and y^e Pulpit on the South part of the said Church of the party's whose seates it formerly were, and taken into his owne Isle and seate,† bee and remayne to him the said John Strode and his heires for ever as the other part of his said Isle is. The said John Strode haveing in lieue there of given soe much ground to the use of the said Church lying in the South part of the s^d Church, out of those Seats w^{ch} formerly belonged to him for y^e use of his servants, bee the s^d John Strode haveing likewise bought Eight severall seats in the Gallery, & other parts of y^e Church for the use of those whose seates were formerly in that part of the ground now enclosed in the said Isle.

Witness this our hands the day & year first above written.

William Milles }
Samuel Hallett } Churchwardens.

Henry Hillary	Thomas Conway	Barnard Painter
James Keate	Anthony Nottley	Will ^m Ireland
Lancelot Keate	John Collant	John Russell
	Tho. Hitt."	

* In an advertisement dated June, 1847, announcing the sale by public auction of Hitts House, it is stated that "There is a commodious Family Pew in the Church belonging to the Estate."

† J. B. Russell says: "At the Upper End of y^e South Isle was a Chantry which without Doubt was the Place whereon the Strodes afterwards built their Principal Seate. This Place was free, and not the Property of the Parish as the other parts of the Church were."

Page 49. Translation (revised).

To the Glory of God, most Good, most Great, and most Mighty.

Here lie the mortal remains of Thomas Strode, Sergeant-at-Law, who peacefully fell asleep in Christ Feb. 4, 1698. Aged 70. A man of imperishable and everlasting memory : distinguished for (his) knowledge of the law, piety and wisdom : of character as upright as it was eminently agreeable ; faithful at all times to God, the King, and his friends : son of John Strode, Knight, of Parnham, in the County of Dorset.

He took to himself as his dearly beloved wife, Mary Adams, widow of Parkinson Odber, Esquire, by whom he had an only Daughter still surviving, who in deep grief, and with tears and sighs has gladly in gratitude for his merits, dedicated and erected this last memorial of her affection.

Page 52. Translation (revised).

Sacred to the Memory of
John Banger Russell

a man of remarkable affability amongst his friends, and of the highest integrity amongst others ; of great distinction in forensic knowledge, and in Literary attainments of every kind. Who had ruled his life with such wisdom that he sustained his last days with that confidence which nothing but true piety could impart.

He died the 25th day of May, A.D. 1827.

Aged sixty-seven years.

At the same age died also,

Mary, his most dearly beloved and loving wife,
the 14th day of November, A.D. 1825.

Page 54. Translation (revised).

Death, the Gateway of Life.

In Memory of Henry Samwayes, Gentleman,
who died the 22nd day of July, in the 60th year of his age,
the year of our Lord 1706.

And of five sons, John, Thomas, George, Garland and Robert, carried off by death in boyhood.

And also of Henry his eldest son, who departed this life the 25th day of August, 1711. Aged 35.

And of Mary his only daughter, the last of his children and wife of Giles Merefeild, Gentleman, who expired the 18th day of July, A.D. 1712. Aged 23.

Five moons (months) saw her married and buried in the tomb.

Joan Samways the widow erected this monument as a lasting token of her wifely and motherly love, earnestly desiring that her remains should, after the funeral (after her death) be deposited beneath, and under no circumstances in the future, be removed.

- 1763 " P^d the Churchwardens for 10 Places for myself
and Family behind the North Door under the
Gallery Stairs 10s.*
- 1764 Expended in building my new Pews, for myself and
Servants, behind the North Door in the Church
of Beamister, in Workman and Materials
£007 - 12 - 08."*

MONUMENTS.

By far the most imposing monuments in the church are those in the south aisle, in memory of former owners of Parnham.

The one of Thomas Strode—a sergeant-at-law—is a life-size effigy of white marble standing upright in a niche, dressed in his robes and wig and holding in the right hand a scroll. On each side of the figure is a small statue, one of which is treading on a skull.

Inscribed on the base is the following Latin epitaph :

D. O. M. P. Q.

[Deo Optimo Maximo Potentissimo Que.] ?

Mortalitatis Exuvias hic deposuit THOMAS STRODE Serviens
ad Legem ;

Qui in Christo placide obdormivit

Feb: 4 : 1698. Ætat ; suæ 70. Vir Immortali Memoriae sacratus ;

Jurisprudentiâ, pietate & Consilio, Insignis ;

Moribus Integris Juxta ac Suavissimis ; Deo, Principi, & amicis semper
fidus :

Patre JOHÂNE STRODE Equite Aurato de Parnham in Comitatu
Dorset oriundus ; Charissimam

sibi adscivit Conjugem MARIAM ADAMS, reliç : de PARKINSON
ODBER Armigero ;

Ex quâ filiam suscepit unicam adhuc superstitem,

Quæ hoc supræmû pietatis Monumeñt, Mœstissima & cum lacrymis
gemens,

L. M. D. P. Q.

[Libens Merito Dedicavit Posuit Que] ?

Translation.—To the Glory of God, most Good, most Great and most Mighty. The outward covering of mortality Thomas Strode has here laid aside, a sergeant-at-law, who peacefully fell asleep in Christ February 4th, 1698, in the 70th year of his age. A man sacred to immortal memory ; distinguished in knowledge of the law, in personal goodness

* Richard Symes' MS.

and in sound judgment ; of character as upright as it was eminently agreeable ; one at all times faithful to God first and to friends ; a worthy son of his father John Strode, Knight, of Parnham in the County of Dorset. He united to himself as his dearly beloved wife, Mary Adams, widow of Parkinson Odber, Esquire, by whom he had an only daughter, still surviving, who in deep grief, and with tears and sighs has gladly in gratitude for his merits dedicated and set up this frail memorial of a good life.

Above the statue is a white marble shield of twelve quarters with the crest of Strode—

- I. Strode.
- II. Ermine a fess gules.
- III. Gules a bend between six cross-crosslets or ;
- IV. A lion rampant debruised by a bendlet ermine ;
- V. A wyvern statant :
- VI. A chevron gules between three ermine spots.
- VII. Ermine on a chevron three mullets.
- VIII. A chevron between three lions' heads erased.
- IX. A fess party per fess indented vert and sable, between two cotises counterchanged a bordure engrailed.
- X. A fret.
- XI. A chevron between three Moors' heads coupé sable, bound with a torse or.
- XII. A cross flory pierced of five mullets.

Near by is the other worthy memorial erected to the memory of George Strode, Esquire, and Catherine, his wife.

Of this monument Hutchins says : " In the centre, on a base of black marble highly polished, are the figures of a man and woman reclining on a couch. The dresses are Roman. The woman holds in her left hand an open book, pointing to it with her right, towards which the face of the man is directed. This seems to represent Faith. On the west side is a whole-length figure of Hope, with an anchor, and on the east side a whole-length figure of Charity, with cornucopia. The whole is of exquisite workmanship, and does great honour to the statuary, whose modesty has not permitted him to inscribe his name." A panel of white marble contains this epitaph—

To the Memory of GEORGE STRODE late of PARNHAM Esqr &
CATHERINE his Wife

One of the Daughters & Coheiresses
of RICH^d BRODREPP late of Maperton Esqr.

This Monument is Erected

By THOS STRODE of PARNHAM Esqr. his Brother & Executor
Pursuant to his Will

CATHERINE STRODE dyed y^e 14th of September 1746, Ætat : 47.

GEORGE STRODE dyed y^e 30th of June 1753, Ætat : 73.

Arms on a shield above : Quarterly of eight—

- I. Strode.
 - II. Quarterly, 1 and 4, Ermine a fess gules ; 2 and 3, Gules, a bend between six cross-crosslets or ;
 - III. Gules, a lion rampant or, debriused by a bendlet ermine.
 - IV. Gules, a wyvern statant argent.
 - V. Quarterly, 1 and 4, Ermine a chevron gules, 2 and 3, Ermine a chevron azure.
 - VI. Argent a chevron between three lions' heads erased gules.
 - VII. Quarterly, 1 and 4 Argent, within a bordure engrailed a fess party per fess vert and sable, between two cotises counter-changed ; 2 Argent a bull passant with bordure sable ; 3 Argent on a chevron between three human heads three water bougets ;
 - VIII. Gules, a cross flory pierced of five mullets or.
- In an inescutcheon, Quarterly, 1 and 4, a St. George's cross or between four swans argent ; 2 and 3, Argent a fess azure, over all a lion rampant guardant gules.
- Crest of Strode.

Sir Frederick Treves criticises this monument in his *Highways and Byways in Dorset* somewhat severely, he says : " Mr. Strode is dressed as a Roman citizen in toga and sandals, and reclines, with evident effort, upon a pillow. Mrs. Strode, in semi-Roman attire, is by his side. She holds in her hand an eighteenth century book, to the open pages of which she is directing Mr. Strode's attention. Her attitude appears to be that of rebuke, his of supercilious indifference. No doubt the meaning of the artist was good, but the result is deplorable."

" Sir John Strode of Chantmarle, knt. by will dated 1637 orders his body to be interred in Beaminster Church, by the bodies of his father and mother. He died in 1642. Many others of the Strode family are here buried, without any monument or inscription."*

In the north aisle at its eastern end is a flag-stone on which is cut the following inscription, partly obliterated :

Here Lyes The Bodyes Of Iohn Hoskins Esqr and Mary His Daughter.
She Died
The 21st Day Of IVNE Año Doñ. 1726.

On the walls of this aisle are six monuments. One is of pyramidal form having at the top the figure of Liberty leaning on an urn ; at the bottom is a tablet inscribed :

* Hutchins' *History of Dorset*.

I.

In Memory
 of Daniel Cox Merchant, who died 23^d Oct^r 1778,
 Aged 57 Years,
 Also
 of John Cox Surgeon, who died 28th Novemb^r 1783,
 Aged 55 Years.
 And
 of Samuel Cox, Merchant, their elder Brother,
 who in his Life time,
 caused this Monument to be erected.
 He died 28th April 1801.
 Aged 82 Years.

Arms: Sable a chevron between three stags' heads cabossed, coupéd below the eyes argent.

Crest: A stag couchant on a wreath.

This monument was removed from the chancel and placed in its present position in 1862.

II.

Near this Place lies the Body of
 Gershom Levievx Who died in the Year of
 Christ
 1735
 in the 41st Year of his Age
 and was the Son of Theodore Levievx
 Who was born at the City of Uzes in the lower Languedoc.

According to the parish register, Theodore Levieux was also buried in the church 1744. He was a French refugee.

III.

Memoriæ sacrum
 Johannis Banger Russell,
 Viri inter suos, eximiæ morum comitatis,
 Inter alios probitatis summi: (? summæ)
 In doctrinâ forensi, et universâ re Literariâ
 Celeberrimi.
 Qui vitam eâ sapientiâ instituerat,
 Ut extrema sustentaret eâ fiduciâ.
 Quam nil nisi vera pietas, impertire posset.
 Obiit die Mai: xxv, A.D. MDCCC XXVII
 Annos sexaginta et septem natus.
 Obiit etiam pari ætate.
 Maria, uxor charissima et amantissima,
 Die Novembris XIV. A.D. MDCCCXXV.

Translation.—Sacred to the Memory of John Banger Russell, a man of extraordinary pleasantness of manner among his friends, amongst others (*i.e.* strangers) (a man) of the highest integrity: (He was) Distinguished in forensic practice and all Literature. (He was one) who conducted his life with such wisdom that he sustained his last end in the trust of it which (trust) nothing except true piety could impart.

He died the 25th day of May, A.D. 1827. Age sixty-seven years. Of the same age also died, Mary his dearly beloved and loving wife, the 14th day of November, A.D. 1825.

IV.

In Memory of
Richard Symes, of Beaminster Esqr. Barrister at Law,
who departed this life the 19th day of Novr. 1783,
Aged 57 Years.
Also of Elizabeth his Wife
who departed this life the 10th day of May 1792
Aged 62 Years.
And of Ann, their only issue,
And of Samuel Cox Esqr. her Husband,
He departed this life on the 10th day of April 1822,
Aged 63 Years.
She on the 4th day of Sept^r in the same year,
Aged 52 Years.

Arms : Quarterly, 1 and 4, Azure three escallops in pale or ; 2 and 3, Argent on a bend cotised gules three plates, impaling, Azure three escallops in pale or.

V.

Here
Lye the bodies
of John Hoskins Esq.
and Mary Gifford
his only Daughter.

Arms : Per pale azure and gules, a chevron between three lions passant or, impaling, Azure within a bordure engrailed or, pellettée, three stirrups argent, leathers sable.

VI

M. I. V.

[Mors Janua Vitæ]

In Memoriam Henrici Samwayes Gen. qui
Obiit 22° die Julii. Ætatis Suæ 60° Dominiq̃.
Anno : 1706.^o
Et quinq̃. filiorum, Iohannis, Thomæ, Georgii,
Garlandi, et Roberti,
in pueritiâ morte correptorum.
Ac etiam Henrici filii natu maximi, qui e vitâ
excessit 25° die Augusti, Año 1711° et Ætat : suæ 35°
Et Mariæ filiæ Unicæ Liberatorum Ultimæ, et
Ægidii Merefeild Gen : Uxoris quæ animam
efflavit Iulii 18° die A.D. 1712° et Ætat : suæ 23°
Quinq̃. vident nuptam Lunæ, tumuloq̃. sepultam.
Johanna Samwayes, vidua, hoc Monumentum
conjugalit et materni amoris indicium perenne
erexit, post funera infrâ depositas esse reliquias
nequaquam in futuro removendas exoptans.

Translation.— Death (is) the gate of life.

In memory of Henry Samwayes Gentleman who
died the 22nd day of July in the 60th year of his age
the year of Our Lord 1706.

And of five sons, John, Thomas, George,
Garland and Robert,

(who were) seized by death in childhood.

And also of Henry the eldest born son, who departed from life the 25th day of August, in the year 1711, and of his age the 35th. And Mary his only daughter the last of his Children, and Wife of Giles Merefeild Gentleman, who breathed out her life the 18th day of July, A.D. 1712, and of her age the 23rd. Five moons (months) saw her married and buried in the tomb. Joan Samwayes the widow erected this monument as a lasting token of her wifely and motherly love, earnestly desiring that the remains (which) after the funeral were deposited beneath (shall) in future never be removed.

This mural monument—lettered in gold—should be in the chancel, for it was removed from the north side of the communion table—probably in 1844—to its present inappropriate position.

There is one other small tablet of white marble on the wall of the south aisle.

VII.

Sacred

To the Memory of

Stephen Atkinson Esqr. who Died Novr. 6th 1839:

Aged 69 Years.

No doubt in time past, many ancient memorial brasses have been removed from the church, some perhaps sold as old metal, others stolen. In the churchwardens' accounts for the year 1669, is the following entry—"To the scot for taking of the Brass from Mr. Hardyes Tomb 6*d*."

From very early days until quite recent times it was customary to bury persons—not of the humbler rank—within the church. Sometimes the coffins were placed on shelves one above the other round a vault, but frequently a grave was dug beneath the flag-stones of the floor. Wealthy people, benefactors to the building, and often the clergy, were distinguished by interment in the chancel.

There are many entries in the Beaminster churchwardens' books of payments—"6*s*. 8*d*. for breaking the ground in the church," removal and repairs of seats, etc.

1658 "Item to John Buglar for caryinge the Rubish &
earth out of the Church o - o - 6."

1713 "for taking up the stone for Mr. Hood's wife o - 1 - o."

- 1649 "Recd. of Mrs. Derby for breaking the Gro^d in the Church for her Husband's Grave 6s. 8d."
 1650 "Recd. of Mr. John Strode for breaking the Gro^d in the Church for his Child's Grave 3s. 4d."
 1651 "Payd the Bedman* for carrying out the Rubbish 6d."

Affixed to the wall in the north aisle are two brasses, recently placed there, the earlier is inscribed—

HERE LYETH BVRIED THE
 BODY OF MARGERIE MASON
 THE WIFE OF IOHN MASON
 WHO DIED THE 2 OF FEB. 1591.

This tablet was rescued with the three others described on page 38. It was originally placed on a flat stone which covered the grave of Margerie Mason, at the end of the nave under the tower. The other, of a later date, was restored to the church in 1905 by a parishioner, who had had it in his possession probably since the time of the church restoration 1861-2 when it "disappeared." The plate bears the following inscription—

Underneath
 Lieth the Body of
 William Brinson
 Who departed this Life
 the 11th Day of August
 1723, in the 50th Year
 of his Age.

Hutchins does not mention this brass, and where it was originally fixed is not known.

* * * * *

The Pulpit is a fine specimen of carved oak of the Jacobean period. Until about seventy years ago† it stood in the nave, against the second pier from the chancel arch, and was at that time an excellent example of a seventeenth century "three decker."

The massive structure—built entirely of handsomely carved oak—comprised Pulpit, Reading desk, Clerk's desk and Clergyman's pew.

* Bedman, *i.e.* Grave-man or Sexton.

† In 1844 the Pulpit and Reading Desk, which stood on the south of the nave against a pillar about midway, were removed to the front of the Chancel.

Over it was a black oak sounding board suspended from a hook, which still remains fixed in the arch. This canopy disappeared in 1848,* it bore an inscription—"To God's Glory—Richard Hillary and Lancelot Hallett built this—1619."

In 1851, during the incumbency of the Rev. Samuel Flood, the three-decker pulpit was taken down, mutilated, and then re-erected in the chancel, much to the vexation of many of the townspeople.†

In 1853 "A Memorial of the Inhabitants, Owners and occupiers of Lands and Houses of the Parish of Beaminster assembled at the Easter Vestry," was presented to the Bishop of Salisbury praying that the Pulpit and its appurtenances might again be restored to their original position. It was stated in the petition that the "Pulpit, Reading desk, Clerk's desk and Clergyman's pew, united together, were built of ancient oak, they were in character with the Church, were planted in the body of the Church amidst the congregation. Your memorialists regret that the ancient pannelled oak of the Reading Desk should have been destroyed for the substitution of one far inferior in workmanship and grandeur of appearance; it was moreover endeared to the Inhabitants by its antiquity and noble aspect . . . and no position could be better selected for the same."

In 1856 the Pulpit and the patched-up Reading desk—minus the Clerk's desk and Clergyman's pew—were restored to their former site.‡

In 1862 the Reading desk was swept away; the Pulpit set on an indifferent modern wooden base, and placed against the north pier of the chancel arch, where it now stands. Recently it has been further "modernised" by a coat of varnish!§

At the time of the Commonwealth, when it was the custom to preach long sermons, it was a common practice to place an "hour glass" in churches. These were usually set upon an ornamental hammered iron stand, and affixed

* 1848 "Taking down Head of Pulpit, 2s. 6d."

† April 13th, 1852. Accounts were submitted [Easter Vestry], audited and approved, and were only passed by the churchwardens admitting they had exceeded their authority, by removing the Pulpit, without previously taking the consent of the parish for so doing.

‡ Vestry Meetings Minute Book.

§ The varnish was removed 1913.

to the wall near the pulpit, in a convenient place for the Minister to time his discourse by; the sand in the glass slowly running down from the upper to the lower globe. In Stoke-sub-Hamdon church an interesting example of an old hour glass may still be seen *in situ*.

From the following entry in the Churchwardens' accounts we know that there was one in Beaminster church—"Disbursements for the Church in the year 1650—paid for a Hower Glasse 00 - 01 - 00."

Suspended by a chain from the roof of the nave once hung a handsome brass chandelier, a fine specimen of metal work, formed of two massive globes. From them depended twenty-six branches, each bearing a candle socket.*. On the larger of the metal balls—"which divested of its branches weighed about sixty pounds"—was engraved a flying eagle,† carrying in its beak a scroll bearing the inscription "The gift of Sarah Day of Beaminster. Who died 27 March 1803."

During the vicariate of the Rev. Samuel Flood, about the year 1850, the chandelier was taken down and stored as lumber in the "mort-house." This act of vandalism appears to have been resented, judging from the following doggerel verses, which were at the time printed and circulated in the town—

Some years ago, as I've heard say,
There lived a lady naméd Day
Her pious soul to God was bent
And to the church she always went.

To prove her piety sincere
She gave to the church a chandelier
And there it hung,—a pleasing sight—
Untouched, except to keep it bright.

Until of late there came a Flood
Who took it from the House of God,
And where it's gone I cannot say
That splendid gift of lady Day.

The "gift of Sarah Day" was reinstated in 1852 but only to suffer a worse fate at the general clearance of the church 1861-2, when it was sold at old metal price and

* Shewn in an old photograph of the interior of the church.

† A rough *fac-simile* of the engraving is still preserved.

broken up. It is *said* that the modern brass corona* of triple circles which now hangs in the chancel, was manufactured out of the materials of the old chandelier; it certainly bears a *copy* of the original inscription.

At a vestry meeting held Aug. 13th, 1852, it was "proposed by Mr. Thos. Russell & seconded by Mr. J. Furmedge that a communication be made by the present Churchwardens to the outgoing Churchwardens as to the removal of the Chandelier the Gift of the late Mrs. Sarah Day, and to know where the same now is."

Writing about the year 1780, J. B. Russell says—"Over the Communion Table are set up the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, & Ten Commandments in gilded letters & above is a pretty window. On the North side of the wall—in the Chancel—is a black marble monument."

For some reason, early in the nineteenth century, the Ten Commandments were removed to the west end of the nave, here the tablets remained until 1846, when it appears—from the following entry—they were replaced in the chancel—"Jany 21st 1846. Man 3 days taking down Commandments from near West door, altring & reppg. frames & fixing by side of East Window 9/-." Here the painted wooden boards remained for three years only, for in 1849 an account is rendered for "taking down Communion Railings, Wainscoting & Commandment Boards of Beaminster Chancel." Then the tablets were again fixed to the wall under the tower, where they were suffered to remain, in company with the Royal Arms, until the zeal of the "restorer" banished them *all* from the Church, with many other "encumbrances" in 1862.

WINDOWS.

The windows of the Church—eighteen altogether—have been much tampered with;† they are of varying styles of architecture and ornamentation, and although containing no ancient glass, are worthy of notice.

In the spacious East window, now filled with stained glass, the head tracery has been sadly mutilated by the removal of the cusps, which has spoilt its beauty, and makes

* Supplied by Messrs. Hart & Son.

† At a Vestry Meeting held 29th April, 1825, it was resolved "That the Window on the North Side of the Church having a square head be converted into a Gothic Window similar to the other Windows of the said Church."

the window appear to be of later date than it really is. This despoliation is said to have taken place in 1810. At the base extending the whole width is a representation of the Last Supper, with the inscription "Do This In Remembrance Of Me." Above in the five lights, under Gothic canopies, are portrayed the Birth, Baptism, Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension of Christ.

In the sexagonal lights above are the four Evangelists, and at the top the Lamb and Flag. Inscription at the bottom—

✠ In Memoriam parentum Henricus Oglander, A.D. 1856."

On each side of this window were once ancient stone brackets—bases no doubt of images—they are now removed.

The Chancel is lighted on the south side by two small windows of two lights each; they exhibit some of the characteristic beauties of the Perpendicular style of architecture. Both contain stained glass. One "In Memory of Peter only Son of Peter & Annie Cox, who died at Bekfeya, on Mount Lebanon, 11 Sept., 1850, Aged 23," is of especial interest from the fact that it was designed by Pugin; the work was executed by Hardman. The scenes represented are—

Christ and Martha	Christ and the Nobleman
"Thy brother shall rise again."	"Thy son liveth."

In the upper part is a palm tree, and the initials P. C.

The other window is "To the Glory of God, & in memory of the Rev. Alfred Codd, Vicar of Beaminster for 33 years." The painted glass represents our Lord as the Good Shepherd giving His commission to St. Peter. Above the figure of Christ are angels bearing scrolls with the words "I know mine, and mine know me," and above the Evangelist "Feed my lambs, Feed my sheep." In the head of the window is depicted a Bible, Shepherd's crook, a Chalice and a Paten. The glass is the work of Hardman of Birmingham.

At the base of this window has been placed a brass tablet inscribed

In Memory
of
Emily—Widow of the above
who Died 9th May, 1908
Aged 79 years.

An active helper & worker in this Church & Parish for many years, to whose devoted efforts the present Organ was mainly owing.

That they all may be one.

At the end of the Nave, over the west door is a handsome window entirely new, the stone-work having been given by Mr. Peter Cox in 1862. It is of six lights, divided by a horizontal mullion. The head is filled with tracery, surmounted by a large circle enclosing a quatrefoil, suggestive of the "decorated" style, which is quite out of harmony with the general architecture of the church. The whole window is filled with richly coloured glass, the effect of which is considered excellent. The principal subjects are—in the large quatrefoil the Nativity, with surrounding angels bearing scrolls, with the motto "Glory to God in the Highest, and on Earth, Peace, Good-Will toward Men." The centre of the window is occupied by figures of the prophets who foretold the coming of Christ, *viz.*:

Joel—Jeremiah—Isaiah—John the Baptist—Ezekiel—Daniel.

one in each of the six lights.

All the figures bear a scroll inscribed—

1. In Mount Zion & in Jerusalem shall be deliverance.
2. I will raise unto David a righteous branch.
3. Behold a virgin shall conceive & bear a Son.
4. Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world.
5. I will set up one Shepherd over them.
6. Unto Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks.

Underneath are groups representing—

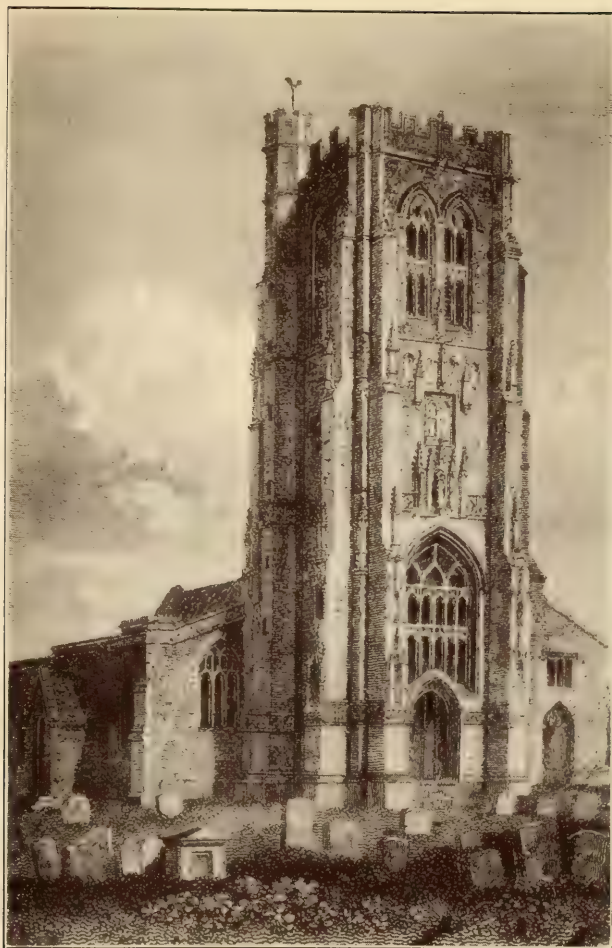
1. The expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden.
2. Three angels appearing to Abraham at the door of his tent.
3. Jacob's Dream.
4. Samuel anointing David.

In the right-hand corner are the words—

✠ To the Honour & Glory of God ✠
The Gift of Edward Fox and Mary His Wife.

The total cost of the window was £285—stained glass £200, stone tracery £85.

A sketch of an earlier West window appeared in the *Gentlemen's Magazine* for the year 1819, and reproduced in the 3rd edition of Hutchins' *History of Dorset*. A writer in the magazine referred to, comments on the church tower



BEAMINSTER CHURCH TOWER.
N.W.

(From a print in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1819)

and says—"In the basement story is a plain heavy pointed door, and a large window, the tracery of which has been altered in the head of the arch."

Probably the window had been mutilated seven years previously, for it is recorded that—"Oct. 23rd, 1812, Paid Messrs. Morton & Rugg the Hamhill Masons for restoring the West window, and other work about the Church £67 - 15 - 0."

At the eastern end of the South aisle is a fifteenth century window, now filled with modern stained glass. Incorporated into this window is the jamb stone, still left *in situ*, of an original window of the twelfth century; this stone retains a faint line of the decorative colouring used at that period, though externally it has been worked in with the jamb moulding of the later window. The subject represented in the three lights is Christ coming to his Disciples, walking upon the sea. Below are the words—

"Be of good cheer—It is I—be not afraid."

Affixed to the wall beneath the window is a brass plate, bearing the crest, arms and motto of the Oglanders, and an inscription—

"To the Glory of God, and to the memory of Sir Henry Oglander of Nunwell in the Isle of Wight, Baronet, and of Parnham, in this County. Born 24th June 1811, Died 8th April 1874."

At the time the coloured glass was inserted, the cusps in the head of the arch were unfortunately mutilated. Until that date the window remained a perfect specimen of fifteenth century architecture.

In this aisle one other window has been furnished with stained glass, executed by Kemp. Here also new tracery was instituted to suit the artist's design. In the three lights are portrayed—

St. George
Dominum Regem Mar-
tyrum

St. Michael
Venite adoremus

St. Alban
Dominum Regem Mar-
tyrum

"To the Honour of God and His Saints, and in memory of Samuel Symes Cox, a Lt. Col. in H.M.'s 56th Regiment. Mary his widow dedicated this window A.D. 1884."

In the "mort-house," now the vestry, the two windows

on the south side are entirely new, as also is the most western one in the north aisle. This latter window is partly blocked by a buttress of the tower. The old window—probably original, and anterior to the tower—is shewn in a print published in Hutchins' *History of Dorset*, 2nd edition, 1793. It appears that some years later, the whole of the stone work was removed—with the exception of the arch—and the opening walled up. So it remained until the restoration of the church in 1861-2, when the present mullions and tracery were put in.

In 1906, thanks to the energetic influence of the then Vicar, six of the disfigured windows—*viz.* three in the South aisle, two in the North aisle, and the East window of the Hillary Chapel—were restored to their original beauty, by the reinstatement of the cusps in the small upper lights. These pieces of stone tracery had, at some time, been ruthlessly cut away—probably for the convenience of the glazier—much to the disfigurement of the building. The windows are now exactly as they were when first built.

Two windows in the North aisle, one on each side of the porch, were wisely left untouched, for the reason that they are modern erections designed and built without cusps.

In the east window of the Hillary Chapel are six small pieces of ancient painted glass. "Without doubt before the Civil War, both of the windows [were] full of stained & painted glass. Some of which was given to Mr. Brodrepp of Mapperton, with which he partly glazed the Church of Mapperton."* The north window in this chapel has happily remained untouched.

On July 27th, 1911, a window in the North aisle, was filled with stained glass and dedicated to the memory of Mary, widow of Lieut.-Col. Cox of the Manor House. The subject of the window designed by A. L. Ward, a London artist, portrays the Annunciation and the Nativity of our Lord. The three lights have been taken for the principal subject. In the centre is the infant Jesus looking towards the Virgin Mary who is kneeling in the left-hand light; on the other side is Joseph paying reverential homage. In the background are two angels supporting a ruby curtain, while above are also angels singing "Gloria in Excelsis Deo." In the tracery is shewn the Annunciation and the Incarnation. On either side below the main sub-

* J. B. Russell's MS.

ject, is Mary Magdalene and Mary Cleophas. The inscription is: " ' In this Birthday Joy let us Bless the Lord '—In Memory of Mary Cox, Born the Nativity of our Lord 1826, Died June 3rd 1909."

* * * * *

In September, 1839, gas was first introduced into the church. The event was commemorated by the preaching of a special sermon by the Rev. W. Maskell, then a Curate at Corscombe, which created much controversy at the time.*

Prior to this date it was not customary to have an evening service, but as the church was now lighted by gas " Sunday Evening Lectures " were instituted.†

The Incumbent's and Curate's duties ended with the afternoon service, so it devolved upon a committee to supply an evening " Lecturer " whose stipend and other expenses were defrayed by annual voluntary subscriptions.

In 1860 at a meeting of the parishioners, it was resolved—

(i). That the Evening Lecture Fund shall henceforth be called " The Curate's Aid Fund for the Parish of Beaminster."

(ii). That, in the opinion of this Meeting, a clear sum of £50 at least, should be contributed by the Parishioners to the above object.

(iii). That there should be an annual or half-yearly Collection in Church to meet the Gas and other expenses of the Evening Services.

(iv). That, subject to the above Resolutions, being carried out, it is understood by the Meeting, that henceforth the regular Sunday Services shall be Three Services at the Parish Church (the afternoon service to be a Catechetical one, as at present at Holy Trinity Church) and a morning Service at Holy Trinity Church.

Alfred Codd, Vicar.

Chairman.

W. Gardner }
R. Swatridge } Churchwardens.

In 1864 the Vicar issued a circular stating that " Having now secured . . . the means of supporting a Curate in full orders, by a grant from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners . . . the *Evening Service* at the Parish Church must henceforth be considered as an *extra Service*, *freely provided* by the

* See Chapter III.

† 1844. October 13th. " The Hon. and Rev. Somerville Hay commenced evening lectures."

Incumbent for the benefit of such as may like to avail themselves of it, subject only to a sufficient provision on the part of the Congregation, to defray the expenses of gas, etc. . . ."

"In the Autumn of 1844, the Chancel of the old Church underwent a thorough repair by the Rector [Patron] the Hon. and Rev. Pleydell Bouverie. At the same time a Grecian Balustrade which had been erected by the Strodes and greatly disfigured the appearance of the Church was removed by permission of Sir Wm. Oglander from the Parnham Pew, and partly used for a new Altar rail."*

The same year Captain Steele presented to the parish two wands to be used by the Churchwardens as an insignia of their office. These official rods are still occasionally used.

A broadsheet, which is an interesting relic of bygone days, now hangs in the Vestry. It gives the "Hymns and an Anthem to be Sung in Beaminster Church, Christmas Day, 1823."

In 1856 "Bickersteth's Hymns" were introduced in place of "A New Version of the Psalms of David fitted to the Tunes used in Churches by N. Tate and N. Brady," which had been for many years sung in the church.

During the year 1857 daily services were first established.

It was during the years 1861-2 that the interior of the church underwent a complete restoration, at a cost of about £3,000, of which amount the parish contributed no less than £600 from the rates.†

No doubt care and judgment were exercised in the undertaking, one cannot however but lament the disappearance of much that was of the greatest interest and worth, relics of bygone ages which can never be replaced. Churches that have been restored have almost, without exception, lost something of antiquarian value in the process.

The very name "restoration" as applied to an ecclesiastical edifice at once arouses suspicious fears. Ruskin says: "It means the most total destruction which a building can suffer—a destruction out of which no remnants can be gathered—a destruction accompanied with a false description of the thing destroyed . . . a lie from be-

* MS. formerly at the Manor House.

† Architect, William White, Wimpole Street, London. Local Contractors who undertook the work: Messrs. Chambers, J. Chick and D. Hann.



Photograph by]

ALFRED CODD, M.A.

Vicar of Beaminster, 1857-1890.

[Fradelle & Young.

ginning to end." These words are often unfortunately only too true.

It was principally owing to the enthusiasm and untiring efforts of the then vicar, the Rev. Alfred Codd, that St. Mary's Church underwent such a complete transformation. The cumberous galleries—which were no part of the original building—were swept away; the irregular high pews—which compelled people to sit with their backs in pain—were replaced by more comfortable seats; the "mort-house" was re-opened into the church by removing the masonry which blocked the arches; the nave was entirely re-roofed, the plaster taken from the fine old black oak timbers of the aisles, and the belfry floor raised to its present height.

The removal of rough stone-work which inclosed the "mort-house" exposed to view the beautiful panelled archway on the north side, while on the east it disclosed the ancient segmental arch previously referred to.

The flooring of the "vestry-room," in the upper portion of this enclosure—in which a Sunday-school class had assembled for many years—was taken away, and modern benches placed on the ground floor, thus adding to the seating accommodation of the church; but it is to be regretted that some ancient open benches of carved oak in the west end of the nave vanished entirely.

In the Hillary Chapel—from which the old pews were taken—a new organ of two manuals was built,* by G. M. Holdich, of London, at a cost of £325. The old organ, which stood in the west gallery, was removed from the church and placed in the Girls' School-room—once the parish Workhouse—in East street, for general use, but specially for Sunday afternoon school services, held for the children of the parish, during the time St. Mary's Church was under repair, November, 1861—January, 1863.

In 1866, the organ was sold and found a temporary resting place in a private house. Some years later the instrument was re-erected in the Wesleyan Chapel, but being much out of repair it was ultimately taken to pieces and sent to Bridport, where the metal pipes and mahogany case were disposed of.

The chancel was entirely renovated at the expense of the Vicar and his friends, aided by a grant of £62 from the

* Enlarged and renovated 1899.

Ecclesiastical Commissioners, the oak roof being much repaired and the floor laid with encaustic tiles from the Poole pottery works.

The Communion table was presented by Bishop Hamilton. The re-table or ledge immediately behind, is of Caen stone, upon which is painted the four Evangelists with their symbols, and in the centre is a Greek cross. The old carved oak chairs on either side, are of pre-restoration date; not so the sedilia, which are new, of plain Bath stone with oak backs and seats, and ornamented with blue and gold. These seats—originally provided for the priest and those assisting him at mass—were entirely absent from the chancel, a not uncommon occurrence in country churches.

A handsome brass chandelier of crown-shape here depends from the roof; it has thirty-six gas jets arranged in triplets, producing a brilliant effect when lighted. An inscription on the corona states that it was "THE GIFT OF SARAH DAY OF BEAMINSTER WHO DIED 27TH MARCH 1803." This however is *not* the gift of the donor, but "a false description of the thing destroyed."

The credence table of Bath stone is modern, also the oak lectern which bears the inscription "AN OFFERING OF THE POOR OF BEAMINSTER."

The lofty nave roof is now of stained pine wood,* the supports of which spring from carved Bath stone corbels representing angels, many bearing shields on which are painted emblems of the Crucifixion, *viz.* the scourge, ladder, nails, hammer, pincers and the spear. Others without shields are depicted with a flaming sword, cross, lily, musical instruments, crown; one bears a scroll inscribed Alleluiah, others open books with appropriate scriptural quotations lettered on the pages. The cost of decorating these corbels was defrayed by the Beaminster Musical Society. The corbels, under the tower, which support the belfry floor, were given by Mr. Peter Cox. They are sculptures in stone of the phoenix, pelican and her young, fox and snake, wild cat and bird, etc.

The roof supports in the North and South aisles are heads of "various saints" hewn in stone and painted.

Extending the whole length of the nave on each side, were placed modern brass gas standards of four lights each.

A new font was also put in the church near the north

* Erected at a cost of £600.

door, although not in character with the architecture of the building it is a richly carved block of Caen stone. The octagonal basin is placed upon short marble pillars and central stem, with moulded capitals, and sculptures over; the whole rests upon a Bath stone base.

The cost of the font—about £45—was partly defrayed by Miss C. E. Keddle, by the sale of a lithographed view of the tower, reproduced from an excellent drawing she made in 1859.

On the morning of January 15th, 1863, the church was formally re-opened by the Bishop of the Diocese, Dr. Walter Kerr Hamilton. A large number of neighbouring clergy attended, and marched with the choristers in a procession to the church. Prayers were read by the vicar—Rev. Alfred Codd—the lessons by Archdeacon Bickersteth and Prebendary Rooke, and the sermon preached by the Bishop. Mr. Holdich presided at the organ.

After the service, which was largely attended, a luncheon took place at the National Schools in Hogshill street. In the evening a service was again held in the church, when a sermon was preached by Archdeacon Bickersteth, and the lessons read by Archdeacon Sanctuary, and the Rev. E. S. Codd, the Vicar's brother. The collections during the day amounted to £100.

Of all the interesting relics which disappeared at the Church's restoration in 1862, by far the most valuable was the ancient font which stood under the tower, in its proper position, near the west door. A short description of it was given in the *Gentlemen's Magazine* of January, 1819: "The font is very ancient, and resembles a peculiar kind of Saxon capital, the bason part being square, ornamented with four arched panels on each side, and sloping to a circular shaft and base."

Pulman, in his *Book of the Axe*, dated 1854, says—"The font is of blue lias, square and shallow. On one of its sides are carved some circular arches, as if of Norman date, to which they are not improbably a truthful index; while the vilest of rude chiseling ('enlightened age-work,' of course) has effectually erased from the other sides, and from the top, every trace of ornament and of antiquity."

As far as is known, no illustration of the font exists, but it was undoubtedly very old, and probably belonged to a church some centuries before the present building was erected. Although mutilated by "rude chiseling," its re-

moval was most unwarrantable, and will for ever cause universal regret.

In the year 1872 the church was heated by means of hot air at a cost of £128. This was the first time of warming the building by artificial means. During 1906 the system of heating was much improved. Previously air had been drawn from *inside* the building to the heating chamber and when hot sent in again. Now a cold-air inlet has been provided from *outside*, to the heating apparatus, and ventilators provided in the church roof for escape of impure air.

In addition to the restoration of the windows in 1906 several other alterations and improvements were carried out during the incumbency of the Rev. A. A. Leonard.

In 1898, the much needed new roof to Hillary's Chapel was built; its cost—£190—being borne by Mrs. Cox. At the same time the floor was lowered, an old vault beneath filled with concrete, the organ re-built and considerably improved by the addition of a new open diapason.

The same year, the "mort-house" was screened off with curtains and converted into a choir vestry.

For the preservation of the Communion plate, Registers and old Churchwardens' books, a fire-proof safe was given to the church in 1903 by Miss C. E. Keddle as "a thank-offering to Almighty God for the privilege of being allowed to teach for fifty years in the Sunday School." This safe has been built into the east wall of the Hillary Chapel. In constructing the recess for this purpose some moulded stones were found built into the wall, which must have occupied prominent places in an older church; these stones have been preserved.

During the Autumn of 1911, an organ was built by Messrs. Hele and Co., of Plymouth, at a cost of some £375, which amount included the hydraulic engine, laying on water, and other incidental expenses. In its construction the case and such pipes of the 1863 organ as were thoroughly sound, were re-used, so that the present instrument cannot be said to be entirely new. Towards the cost Mr. Andrew Carnegie generously contributed £150, the remainder of the money being for the most part locally subscribed.

At the opening service on October 18th, Dr. H. Yeatman-Biggs* (Bishop of Worcester) performed the ceremony of dedication, and delivered an address. The organist—Mr.

* Formerly Vicar of Netherbury.

T. R. Pine—played for the service, after which Mr. W. W. Trotman, B.A., of Upton Church, Torquay, gave a recital. The collection during the day, taken on behalf of the "Tower Restoration Fund"—chiefly for damaged pinnacles—amounted to £23.

While excavating for the organ waterpipes a brass shield in good preservation was discovered beneath one of the flag-stones in the Hillary aisle; it bore the following inscription—

William Clarke, Esq^r
Died April 17, 1811.
Aged 12
Years.

The plate—which no doubt was once affixed to a coffin—together with fragments of others, were replaced.

* * * * *

It is somewhat remarkable that until the year 1849 "to the Vicarage and Parish Church of Netherbury belonged an ancient parochial Chapelry known by the name of Beaminster."

On March 2nd, 1837, a number of the inhabitants and parishioners of Beaminster assembled in the Vestry room adjoining the church for the purpose of signing "a Memorial to the Lord Bishop of the Diocese of Salisbury, to the Reverend the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Salisbury, and to the Prebendary of the Prebend of Netherbury in Ecclesiâ in the same Church, that the Parish and Church or Chapel of Ease of Beaminster may be separated from the Parish, Vicarage and Mother Church of Netherbury; and an Incumbent Minister or Vicar be appointed for the Church and Parish of Beaminster."

In 1849 the Chapelry of Beaminster was separated from the Vicarage of Netherbury and constituted a separate Parish for Ecclesiastical purposes and a perpetual Curacy and Benefice. In the Order it is stated—

"That the Church affords accommodation for 986 persons or thereabouts.

That the Chapelry of Beaminster appears to have been from time immemorial treated as a separate and distinct parish for all Civil purposes

That the Inhabitants of Beaminster repair the Church (by Rates levied amongst themselves) . . . but not the Church of Netherbury.

That the net annual income derivable from the Chapelry of Beaminster amounts to £220 or thereabouts arising from the Tithe Rent Charges of the said Chapelry, Easter Offerings, and surplice fees.

That there is at present no house of Residence for the Minister of the said Chapelry, but in case the separation herein proposed should take effect, it is in contemplation to provide one.

That the Patronage of the Vicarage and Parish Church of Netherbury is vested in the Honorable and Reverend Frederick Pleydell Bouverie as Prebendary of the Prebend of Netherbury in Ecclesiâ founded in the Cathedral Church of Salisbury, for so long time as he shall continue Prebendary of the said Prebend, and on his ceasing to be such Prebendary by death, resignation, or otherwise, the patronage of the said Vicarage will vest in the Bishop of the Diocese of Salisbury for the time being."

During the eleven years of the Commonwealth, Beaminster was, ecclesiastically, a distinct parish and had its own resident Minister during a portion of that period.

For nearly three hundred years—1542 to 1836—Beaminster was transferred to the Diocese of Bristol, it was however at the latter date restored to Salisbury.

At the separation of Beaminster from Netherbury the benefice was presented to the then Curate, the Rev. Samuel Flood; the annual value of the living being about £300.* When united with Netherbury the benefice was estimated to be worth £700 per annum.

PATRON.

Thomas and Richard Arscott, and Thomas Brown, farmer of the prebendary.

VICARS OF NETHERBURY AND BEAMINSTER.

David of Stalbridge—*temp.* Edw. III.

Thomas Harringdon, 1405.

William Brode, occurs 1476.

John Mabble do. 1503.

John Newman do. 1552.

Robert Hamlyn, LL.B., on the deprivation of Newman. Instituted February 18th, 1554.

George Carew, on the resignation of Hamlyn. Instituted October 26th, 1555.

Will. Henman, ob. 1607.

* The present net yearly value £275 with residence.

PATRON.

VICARS OF NETHERBURY AND
BEAMINSTER.

John Strode and Richard Bragg.	Paul Godwyn, M.A.,* on the death of Henman. Instituted July 7th, 1608. Joseph Crabb, M.A. (Signed the churchwardens' accounts in 1648). Jerome Turner occurs 1653.
John Strode.	John Whinnel, on the deprivation of Crabb. Instituted 1661.
The King <i>per lapsum</i>	Ralph Ironside, M.A., on the death of Godwyn. Instituted August 28th, 1662.
John Westcomb.	Humphry Saunders, on the resig- nation of Ironside. Instituted 5th April, 1667. Arthur Squibb, D.D.
Edward Pocock, M.A. prebendary.	Henry Edmonds, B.D., on the death of Squibb. Instituted December 15th, 1697. Peter Brice, M.A., on the death of Edmonds. Instituted June 10th, 1709.
William Stevenson, Prebendary of the Prebend of Nether- bury in Ecclesiâ an- ciently founded in the Cathedral Church of Sarum.	Robert Aish, M.A., on the death of Brice. Instituted November 5th, 1740 William Brett, on the resignation of Aish or Ashe. Instituted August 24th, 1743. Benjamin Stevenson, on the resig- nation of Brett. Instituted July 4th, 1745.
George Pritchard of Colwall, Co. Hereford, Esq., for this turn only, by virtue of a Deed of Conveyance made Dec. 6th, 1746, by the said William Stevenson, D.D.	William Stevenson, D.D., on the death of Benjamin Stevenson, his son. Instituted 30th September, 1747.

* Vicar in 1630.

PATRON.

VICARS OF NETHERBURY AND
BEAMINSTER.

Bishop of Salisbury, Thomas Rayne, M.A., on the death
the Prebendary being of Stevenson. Instituted 1760.
vacant. Dec. 22nd.

Daniel Dumaresque, James Bandinel, D.D., on the death
D.D., Prebendary. of Rayne. Instituted April 16th,
1789.

William James Brookland, B.A., on
the death of Bandinel.

The Hon. & Rev. Frederick Pleydell Gordon Frederick Deedes, on the
Bouverie, M.A. Pre- death of Brookland.* Instituted
bendary. July 1843.

Ditto. Hon. Somerville Hay, M.A., on the
cession of Deeds. Instituted May
2nd, 1844.

PERPETUAL CURATES† OR VICARS OF BEAMINSTER.

Bishop of Salisbury. Samuel Flood, M.A. Instituted May
19th, 1849.

Alfred Cornelius Richings, B.A., on
the resignation of Flood, October
9th, 1852.

Alfred Codd, M.A., on the resig-
nation of Richings. Instituted July
1857.

Arthur Allen Leonard, M.A., on the
resignation of Alfred Codd. In-
stituted November, 1890.

George Cyril Hutchings, M.A., on
the death of Arthur Allen Leonard.
Instituted October 2nd, 1912.

* Died at Netherbury March 4th, 1842.

† Perpetual Curate—"The Incumbent of a church, chapel or district, which is
within the boundaries of a rectory or vicarage; so called from a curate assistant,
whose office expires with the incumbency of the person who employs him."

NOTES ON THE ABOVE NAMED VICARS.

Jerome Turner died at Netherbury and was buried there December 26th, 1655.* Carlyle, in his *Life of Cromwell*, says :

"I am apt to think Mr. Turner in question may have been Jerom Turner, a Somersetshire man, distinguished among the Puritans, who takes refuge in Southampton, and preaches with zeal and learning and general approbation during the wars there. He afterwards removed to Netherbury, a great country parish in Dorsetshire, and continued there, 'doing good in his zealous way.' He died at Netherbury, next year, 1655, hardly yet past middle age. He had a strong memory, which he maintained good to the last by temperance, says old Antony. He was well skilled in Greek and Hebrew, was a fluent preacher, but too much addicted to Calvinism, which is to be regretted. *Pastor vigilantissimus doctrinâ et pietate insignis* [a most vigilant pastor, remarkable in learning and in piety ;] so has his medical man characterized him, one Dr. Loss of Dorchester."

Joseph Crabb, M.A., during the Commonwealth was Vicar of Beaminster *only*, as during that period the livings of Beaminster and Netherbury were distinct. He however succeeded to that of Netherbury on the death of Turner in 1655, and continued the incumbent of *both* parishes until 1662.† Crabb died Vicar of Axminster, and was buried in Beaminster Church, November 21st, 1699 :

Humphry Saunders was buried at Netherbury November 4th, 1673, he was the Vicar for six years. Affixed to the south wall of the chancel of that church is a monument to his memory, with a Latin inscription. He died October 27th, 1673, aged 33.

Peter Brice, M.A., died July 30th, 1740, aged 70 ; he was interred in Netherbury Church. A mural tablet there, in the chancel, records he was for thirty years the Vicar.

William Stevenson, D.D., sometime Rector of Colwell, Herefordshire, was a Prebendary of Sarum, and the author of several works, the titles of which are given in Hutchins's *History of Dorset*.

His son Benjamin Stevenson, preceded him as Vicar. Dr. William Stevenson died September 12th, 1760, in the 77th year of his age, and was buried in Beaminster Church.

Thomas Rayne, M.A., was previously Vicar of Broadwindsor.

* See Chapter III.

† See Chapter III.

James Bandinell, D.D., late Fellow of Jesus College, and public orator of that University in Oxford, died at Netherbury, November 17th, 1804. A tablet erected to his memory records that he was for seventeen years the Vicar, and that his remains were interred in the chancel of Netherbury Church. The living during his incumbency was valued at £600 *per annum*.

The Hon. and Rev. Somerville Hay, M.A., was the incumbent at the ecclesiastical separation of the parishes.

For about ten years—1834 to 1844—the Rev. James Woodward Scott, M.A., was the resident Curate-in-Charge at Beaminster. On the occasion of his departure from the town he was presented with a testimonial subscribed by the inhabitants. "In promoting this object the contributions were not confined to the members of the Established Church, but liberal donations were also made by several Dissenters, and even the poor of the parish came voluntarily forward and cheerfully tendered their mite."

ADDRESS.

"Dear and Rev. Sir—We, on the part of the Inhabitants of Beaminster, beg to express how much they regret your removal from this parish, and also how deeply grateful they feel for the exertions made by yourself and amiable family in promoting during your residence amongst them, the best interests of your parish.

As a testimony of their regard we trust you will accept the accompanying clock, and articles of plate.

Be assured, Sir, that on leaving this town you take with you the best wishes of every individual for your present and eternal welfare; and their fervent prayers to the Almighty giver of all good that it may please Him long to preserve you and your truly estimable lady in health and happiness to be a mutual comfort to each other, a bright example to your children, and a source of pride and joy to all your family.

Alexander Ramsay	} The Committee appointed for carrying out the intentions of the Inhabitants."
Baruch Fox	
James William Daniel	

The testimonial comprised a handsome and chastely-wrought silver bread-basket and ink-stand with a clock of exquisite workmanship enclosed in a glass case, each of which bore the following inscription—

Presented

On the 26th of August, 1844

by the Inhabitants of Beaminster, as a testimony of their regard and esteem.

The Rev. Samuel Flood, M.A., was presented, previous to his leaving the parish, with a copy of Calmet's *Dictionary of the Bible*, and also with a purse containing fifty-five guineas, "contributed by some of the parishioners as a testimony of their high respect for him, and as a mark of their gratitude for his zealous and faithful ministrations amongst them during the last five years. October, 1852."

Alfred Codd, M.A., was formerly Rector of Hawridge, in the Diocese of Oxford. It was during his incumbency that the Beaminster Vicarage was built in 1861.*

On the evening of Sunday, November 2nd, 1890, Canon Codd preached a "Farewell Sermon" in the Parish Church, which was afterwards published. Prior to his departure from Beaminster a large gathering of parishioners assembled in the National Schoolroom on the evening of October 30th, 1890, for the purpose of presenting him with a suite of library furniture, accompanied by an illuminated volume containing photographs of the church and vicarage. At the same time the Rev. W. Gildea (Rural Dean) and other Clergy of the Deanery attended to present Canon Codd, as late Rural Dean, with a handsome silver inkstand, gold pen, and pair of silver candlesticks for his library table.

The book referred to contained the following address—

"To the Rev. Alfred Codd, M.A., Canon non-residentary of the Cathedral Church of Sarum, on ceasing to be Vicar of Beaminster, Dorset, by being instituted to the Rectory of Stockton, Wilts, 7th October, 1890. We, the undermentioned parishioners of Beaminster, in grateful recognition of your faithful and active work as our Vicar during the period of 33 years, beg your acceptance of the accompanying gifts, consisting of a carved oak book-case (executed by our townsman, Mr. Oliver M. Beament), an oak pedestal writing table, and library chairs."

Here follow the names of over 250 subscribers.

The death of the Rev. Alfred Codd took place at Salisbury on January 9th, 1896. He was buried in Holy Trinity churchyard, Beaminster.

Arthur Allen Leonard, M.A., Oriel College, Oxford, Curate of Bridport, 1873-1880. Vicar of Fordington (Dorchester) 1880-1888. Missioner of the Society of St. Andrew 1888-1890. Rural Dean of Beaminster and Surrogate.

* A circular issued at the time states: "A Portion of the Cost (estimated at about £1,400—irrespective of the Site, which has already been purchased for £600) will be borrowed on the Living; and it is hoped that some assistance may be obtained from the Societies. But we must look to raise a considerable deficiency by the kind Subscription of friends."

On the completion of twenty-one years' work as Vicar of Beaminster in 1911, the parishioners presented the Rev. A. A. Leonard with a purse of gold (£76 10s. 0d.) together with a fountain pen. In a book which contains the names of some 460 subscribers is the following address—

“ To the Rev. Arthur A. Leonard.

We, your Parishioners, and personal friends, whose names are here set out, request your acceptance of the accompanying purse of sovereigns and fountain pen, as a token of our warm appreciation of all that you have done for us, and for the welfare of the Parish, during the 21 years you have now been Vicar of Beaminster; and we pray that you may yet enjoy many years of health and happiness amongst us.

6th November, 1911.”

On January 19th, 1912, death terminated the Vicar's busy life. It is not too much to say that he was beloved by every inhabitant, for during his term of office peace and happiness reigned supreme in the parish. Right well did he do a noble work in Beaminster, and in its prosperity took the keenest interest. He was buried in Holy Trinity churchyard.

In June, 1913, a handsome Chancel Screen was placed in the church as a memorial to the Rev. A. A. Leonard. The screen is similar in design to others of about the fifteenth century which may be seen in many West Country churches, a magnificent example is in Dartmouth Church. Whether the Rood-screen which once stood in Beaminster church was of wood or stone is not now known. The modern structure is of English oak, divided into three bays or openings by moulded pillars which support semi-arches, the central one being the doorway or entrance to the chancel. The side bays are sub-divided by slender mullions resting on a moulded rail, these mullions support the delicate tracery with which the arches are filled. From the main pillars spring the ribs of the vaulting which carry a richly carved cornice and a platform or loft. Above the cornice on the west front, is a parapet open between the mullions; along the parapet are four canopied niches which contain sculptured figures of the Evangelists. The whole structure is surmounted by a cross, and on either side is a crocketed pinnacle. On the eastern side of the transom is the following inscription—In Memory of Arthur Allen Leonard, M.A., R.D., Vicar of Beaminster 1890-1912.

The total cost of the screen and its erection was about



ARTHUR ALLEN LEONARD, M.A.

Vicar of Beaminster, 1890-1912.

£400, the whole amount being raised by public subscription. Mr. C. E. Ponting, F.S.A., of Marlborough, was the architect, from whose designs Mr. H. Read, of Exeter, carved and built what is considered to be a noble monument to a worthy man.

The Memorial was dedicated by the Bishop of the Diocese (the Right Rev. Fredk. E. Ridgeway, D.D.) on June 16th, 1913, when the following clergy were present: the Rev. Canon Sowter (Salisbury), Revs. H. W. Allen (South Perrott), H. M. Brown (Broadwindsor), C. H. Cooke (Netherbury), A. C. H. Earle (Mapperton), T. G. Morres (Chedington), W. E. Plater (Halstock), R. P. Shiner (St. Andrew's Mission), G. C. Hutchings (Vicar), and D. Birt (Curate of Beaminster).

After the service the St. Mary's honorary guild rang for the first time a quarter-peal of Grandsire doubles, *i.e.* 1260 changes.

George Cyril Hutchings, M.A., Keble College, Oxon.; Curate of Lyme Regis, 1888-91; Curate of Melksham, 1891-5; Vicar of Broadwindsor with Blackdown and Drimpton, 1895-1912; also Vicar of Burstock, 1902-1912; Rural Dean of Beaminster, 1912.

ASSISTANT CURATES.

1754	Rev. Thos. Fox.	1812	Rev. J. Pring.
"	" J. Adams.	"	" W. Nourse.
1756	" J. Stokes.	1813	" Ed. Harbin.
1758	" Geo. Bovet.	"	" Thos. Sandford.
"	" T. Metcalfe.	1815	" Chas. Fox.
1760	" Edward Lewis.	1824	" J. J. Coles.
1765	" John Wills.	1826	" Thos. Evans.
1766	" James Sawkins.	1834	" Jas. W. Scott.
1771	" R. Boucher.	1844	" W. S. Oke.
1774	" W. T. Cox.	1846	" J. F. Witty.
1781	" H. Pugh.	1848	" Samuel Flood.
1785	" J. Jones.	1849	" W. T. Allen.
1789	" W. Bryent.	"	" R. C. Weston.
1798	" J. Langfield.	1850	" Fdk. Weston.
1802	" R. Cruttwell.	1852	" H. W. Brenton.
1803	" Geo. Feaver.	1853	" W. B. Wilkinson.
1804	" A. A. Hammond.	"	" Hy. Dickinson.
1806	" A. W. Rhodes.	1855	" J. B. Cole.
1807	" J. C. Russell.	"	" F. C. Cardew.
1808	" W. R. Holden.	1856	" T. J. Paske.
1811	" Thos. Hardwicke.	1857	" J. C. Waugh.

1858	Rev. A. Pardoe.	1874	Rev. D. C. Randolph.
1859	„ W. S. Serres.	„	„ W. C. Meller. }
1860	„ A. G. Begbie.	1877	„ R. G. Wood.
„	„ J. Price.	1879	„ P. H. Jackson.
1861	„ N. S. Blanchard.	1887	„ A. F. Tayler.
1862	„ G. S. L. Little.	1891	„ E. H. G. de Castro.
1865	„ A. Lush.	1893	„ B. W. Bradford.
1867	„ C. W. Molony.	1896	„ W. V. Jephson.
1870	„ R. C. Tyre.	1900	„ R. Rigden.
„	„ R. G. Prentis.	1901	„ B. J. Boodle.
1871	„ F. P. H. Powell.	1905	„ P. A. Hippisley-
1872	„ F. Moor.		Smith.
1873	„ C. W. Bennett.	1909	„ Robt. B. Goodden.
		1912	„ Douglas Birt.

The following copy of a deed—without date—may be of interest as it gives many names of former inhabitants. It appears that Antony Harford was curate here sometime between 1636-50.

“ Right Worshipfull and Reverend Sir our duties humbly remembered and premised: whereas the bringer hereof Mr. Antony Harford, being a licensed Preacher hath bin our Curate for almost two yeares now last past: thereunto admitted & licensed by your worthie Predecessour the now Lord Bushopp of Rochester during all w^h times hee hath behaved & demeaned himselfe verie conformably peacably & profitably in his function & ministrie & verie soberly uprightly & religiously in his whole carriage & conversation amongst us. After the better manefestation of our due respect to your Jurisdiction & authoritie over us & for his better settling encouragement & comfortable remaininge amongst us: We humbly desire that uppon your viewe of his aforesaid licenses & this our testimony of his worth & good deservings you will bee pleased to confirme him with addition alsoe of your approbation & license for w^h we shall rest with our best wishes & prayers.

Your worshipp ever thankful poore friends the inhabitants of Beami-ster whose names are hereunto subscribed.

Launcelott Hallett	} Constables.
Evans Hitt	

Hugh Strode
Wm. Seaburne, Steward.
Eltwide Pomery
William Milles
Ambrose Milles
William Seaburne
John Tucker
John Rowswell
John Sharpie
Willm. Dent
Richard Bartlett
Henry Horsford

Edward White
William Tanner
John Hopkins, Schoolmaster.
James Danyel
Henry Minterne
John Daniell
John Crabb
Johan Danyell, vid.
Toby Simes
John Locke

Hewgh Crabb	James Keate, Churchwarden.
Willi. Tucker	Thomas Conway
Joane Derby, vid.	John White
Hugh Pawle	William Lane
Anto. Derby	Thos. Simcoke, sen.
John Keatte	William Newman
John Hodder	Hugh Hallett
William Horsford	William Parsons, Jun.
John Joanes	
Phillip Dent	Willm. Tucker
Edward Hayward	Willm. Seabourne
Richard Hallet	Hugh Crabbe
William Jessop	John Crabbe
Richard Gover	John Hodder
Barnard Paynter	James Daniell
Richard Clarke	William Tanner
Henry Newman	Tobias Symmes.
Robert Horsford	Richard Mintern
Richard Crabb	Francis Burgis
William Ireland, Jun.	Roger Orall
William Sargent	Thomas Sincocke, Jun.
William Ireland, Sen.	Abraham Person
John Evan	Henry Gudge "
John Jesoppe	

The writer has been unable to ascertain the date of the founding of St. Mary's Church Sunday School. We know however from an entry in a scholar's prayer-book that the school was formed before the year 1836. The *boys* attending the school used to assemble in a room at the rear of the Parish Workhouse in East street, and the *girls* in the large schoolroom which was once the main building of the said old workhouse, facing the street. Children residing in the neighbourhood of Newtown and Shortmoor met for religious instruction on Sundays at Tucker's School. Miss C. E. Keddle says "from 1854, the Vestry Room over the 'Mort-house' was used as a Sunday School (mixed—boys, girls and infants) for the children of Clay Lane and Half Acre, who were much neglected, their parents thinking it too far to go to East street for school and back to service at St. Mary's. This class was formed by the Rev. F. C. Cardew then Curate to the Rev. A. C. Richings, and was taught by me till 1861 when the Church was dismantled for restoration."

From the year 1845 Vestry Meetings were held in the "New School Room," once the Workhouse, East street, but when the building was about to be demolished in 1871 the meetings took place at the Girls' School, Hogshill street.

REGISTERS.

We are indebted to Thomas, Lord Cromwell* for having instituted parish registers. Since his order of the year 1538, every parish in England has kept its registers of marriages, christenings and burials.

Neither parsons nor people took kindly to the inquisition, they greatly feared that new taxes would be imposed, but they obeyed. The registers have thus become a rich mine of information, and about 600 of them are still extant from the first year.

The oldest existing Beaminster parish register commences in August, 1684. On the first page are a few entries copied from an earlier book ; they date back some fifty years but contain only the following names—Cloud, Daniel, Gillingham, Lack, Lavance, Meesh, Nossiter, Seargent and Strong. From 1684 to 1720 the records are fairly complete, but unfortunately the first entry or two on each page has wholly or partially disappeared. For the next fifteen years the records are missing, with the exception of the births, marriages and burials, which took place in 1731, 1732, and the early part of 1733. The sheet of parchment on which these entries are copied is now bound up with the oldest register, which was in a dilapidated state, but has recently been most carefully restored. From 1736 onwards the records are complete, and the registers in a very fair state of preservation.

Recently a most valuable addition was made to the parish records by the gift of transcripts of the lost or destroyed registers ; these have now been bound in one volume together with the following preface—

“A copy of ‘Bishop’s Transcripts’ of the Parish of Beaminster
1585-1684. 1720-1730. 1733-1736.

The oldest existing Register belonging to the Church in this parish dates back only to 1684, the earlier books having (as it is supposed) perished in the fire which occurred on June 28th of that year.

It was known that before that time the Clergy and Churchwardens had to send to the Bishop annually Transcripts of their Parish Registers ; but, Dorset having been from 1542 to 1836 in the Diocese of Bristol, it used to be supposed that our Transcripts—like those from other parishes in Dorset—were destroyed by fire at Bristol during the Reform riots. It was recently discovered that this was not the case. Beaminster,

* Vicar-General, beheaded on Tower Hill, 28th July, 1540.

being a 'Peculiar' parish our Transcripts, instead of being sent to the Bishop of Bristol, were sent to the Dean of Sarum who continued to hold jurisdiction here, and they are still preserved in the Dean's muniment room over the North porch in Salisbury Cathedral.

These Transcripts begin at 1585, exactly a century earlier than our oldest existing Register. Unfortunately they are not complete, though possibly some of the missing ones may yet be discovered among the unidentified parchments in the Muniment room.

All that are at present available have been carefully copied by two friends of mine. The Rev. Richard Grosvenor Bartelot began the work about three years ago, but was obliged to give it up on being appointed to the Vicarage of Fordington. The Rev. E. R. Nevill, assistant Curate of Saint Thomas, Salisbury, very kindly completed it. Mr. Nevill has also copied the Transcripts for the years 1720-1736 of which we possess no record. What became of the Register for that period I have not been able to discover.

At a recent Easter Vestry a cordial vote of thanks was given to Mr. Bartelot and Mr. Nevill for their valuable and gratuitous work, and the Churchwardens were authorised to have these sheets bound* in a substantial manner for the benefit of future generations."

A. A. Leonard,

Vicar.

Easter, 1907.

BEAMINSTER.

Transcripts are extant for the following years previous to 1700.

1585-88 on one roll.

1591-2-3-4 on one roll.

1600-1603 on one roll.

1604-5-6 on one roll.

1606-7-8 1610 1613-14-15 1617-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27
1633-4-5 on sheets of parchment of various shapes and sizes, some very rotten and all much faded.

1636 on a loose parchment amongst the unidentified.

1638 1669 1670-1-2-3 1675 1678 and a part of 1679.

1680-1 1683-4 1686.

1684-1719 not copied as No. 1 Register contains this and following years.

1687-8 1690-1.

1692 on a partly rotted scrap of parchment.

1694-5-6-7-8 1719 1720-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9.

1730 [1731-1733 in No. 1 Register].

1734-5 [All after this date in Registers].

* * * * *

The following extracts are from the earliest transcripts—

BEMISTER.

A Copie of the Regester booke of Christenings, Wedding and buryalls of the pische of Bemister from the IIIIth of Julie A° 1585 unto the XXIXth of October A° 1588.

* The volume of 317 pages has been indexed by the Rev. A. A. Leonard.

CHRISTENINGS.

1585 Eltwitt, the Sonne of Richarde Pomerye was christned the fowerth of Julie.

Margerye the Dawghter of Willm fforde was Christned the XI of Julie.

William the Sonne of Walter Caddy was Christned the XXIII of July.

1585 Katharine the daughter of Mr. Robert Strowde Esquer, was christned the XXVI of October.

1587 Jone the daughter of John Hyne was christned the VIII of februarie.

A° 1585

MARRIAGES.

Richard Cooke and Agnes Rendall were maryed the XIII daie of June.

Peter Newman and Avys Wood were maryed the XVI daie of August.

1585

BURYALLS.

Michael Raynolds was buried the XXVIIIth of Julie.

Androwe Stone was buried the XIIIth of August.

Hutchins says: "From a survey of the register for fourteen years, between 1767 and 1780, both inclusive, it appears that 564 persons were buried; of this number thirty-nine were between 80 and 90, seven between 90 and 100, and one reached the age of 100. Between the period of seventy and eighty years, there were no less than 84. During the period mentioned the marriages were 192, the births 746, exclusive of those of the dissenters."

* * * * *

The following extract is a translation of a document concerning Beaminster Church from the Register of Simon of Ghent, who was Bishop of Salisbury from 1297 to 1315.

"To the Dean of the Church of Salisbury or his Deputy: that he proclaim all the prebendal churches in Dorset under interdict and suspend the prebendaries from their office.

We call to mind that some time ago we gave you orders that celebrations should not be held in interdicted places, to the end that you should make diligent enquiry concerning the dedication of prebendal and parochial churches subject to our jurisdiction in the county of Dorset, which stand with walls perfect but have not been consecrated within two years of their completion, and should inform us of them; yet by your letters certificatory (*i.e.* to us) we have learnt that though two years are past, the parish churches of Bemynystre, Schyreborn, Bere, Fordynton,

Aulton and Netherbir* subject to your jurisdiction, are still destitute of consecration for want of which they are interdicted from the celebration of masses, while those who have neglected this duty are by the same authority suspended from their office. We marvel therefore that in places thus interdicted several persons nevertheless presume to celebrate masses : and we are not less surprised that you from time to time visit such places and ignore so obvious an impropriety, and hitherto have applied, or caused to be applied, no canonical correction to such excess of presumption. Lest, therefore, the error of those who through excess of simplicity and ignorance of the law commit the aforesaid offences should involve us or you as consenting to their sins, we strictly enjoin by virtue of obedience and command, that you publicly proclaim the above mentioned penalties, imposed upon such places and persons in accordance with the constitutions of the legates Otho and Othobon ; [English legatine councils of 1237 and 1268] and that to the full extent of your powers you take further proceedings as the law requires. And we strictly require you to inform us fully and clearly by letters patent of your procedure in this case before the feast of Saint Matthew next ensuing. Farewell. Given at Cherdestok† 22 August, Anno Dni 1303, and of our consecration the sixth.

And because our seal which we were accustomed to use in such cases has been stolen from us, we have caused our privy seal to be set hereto."

Translator's note. This is practically a demand for fees. It is remarkable that so many of the peculiar churches should have been unconsecrated at the same time. So far as I remember they are not of the same date ; probably they had been closed for comparatively slight changes in some cases, and re-consecration was nevertheless demanded. The Bishop (Simon of Ghent) could only act through the Dean, Beaminster being a " Peculiar."

" Those parishes and places are called peculiars which are exempted from the jurisdiction of the proper ordinary of the diocese where they lie. These exempt jurisdictions are so called, not because they are under no ordinary, but because they are not under the ordinary of the diocese, but have one of their own. They are a remnant of Popery. The pope, before the Reformation, by a usurped authority, in defiance of the canons of the Church, exempted them from the jurisdiction of the bishop of the diocese. At the Reformation, by an oversight, they were not restored to the jurisdiction of the diocesan, but remained under the sovereign, or under such other person, as by custom or purchase obtained the right of superintendence.

The act 6 & 7 Will. IV, c. 77, which constituted the ecclesiastical commission, empowered the commissioners 'to propose those parishes, churches or chapelries which are locally situate in any diocese, but subject to any peculiar jurisdiction, other than the jurisdiction of the bishop of the diocese in which the same are locally situate, shall be only subject

* Netherbury

† Chardstock.

to the jurisdiction of the bishop of the diocese within which such parishes, churches or chapelries are locally situate.' In consequence of recommendations by the commissioners peculiars have been abolished in most, if not in all, dioceses of England " [Hook's *Church Dictionary*]

CHURCHYARD.

During 1841 the churchyard was enlarged. On the piece of land enclosed for that purpose, at the south-east end of the church, stood the Parish Pound.

In the churchwardens' accounts for the year 1663 is the following entry: "To Gale for mending the pound wall 10*d*."; also in 1666 "Paid ould Gould for menden y^e church-yard wall against y^e poune 1½ "

Two old cottages, together with the "Round House" adjoined the Pound facing the "church plane"; these were all swept away when the churchyard was extended.

The "Round House" was the parish lock-up, a small dark dungeon built in 1831 at a cost of £40.* Prior to its erection the "Blind House" at the old Workhouse in East street served the purpose of a parish prison, where disorderly persons were confined for the night.

The total cost of enlarging the burial ground, including a payment of £24 to Messrs. Waygood & Porter for the iron railings, amounted to £317, plus the expenses of consecration, *viz.* £29 17*s.* 6*d*.

A clearance having been made, the ground was raised to its present level and surrounded by iron railings. The following entry gives the cost—

"1840 Decr. 16th Paid Messrs. Waygood & Porter for Iron rails at the Church Yard—for new Burying Ground £24 - 16 - 3."

The massive entrance gates, designed by Charles Coombs, appear to have been erected three years earlier—"1837 July 29th Paid Messrs. Waygood & Seymour for Iron Entrance Gates to the Church as per Contract £37 : 10 : 0." In addition the Ham-stone pillars for the gates cost £22-10*s.*

* * * * *

In consequence of the crowded state of the burial-ground Dr. Hoffman, a Government Inspector under the *Burial and*

* £28 15*s.* 0*d.* was subscribed by the "Inhabitants to Pay Expenses of the New Prison, for the Repair of the Fire Engines and the Town Pump."

Cemetery Acts, visited the churchyard in May, 1881, for the purpose of inspecting and reporting thereon to the Secretary of State. As the result of the inquiry the Inspector reported that he should recommend: "That the Churchyard be forthwith and entirely closed for Burial, except as follows: in old vaults and brick graves under certain restrictions; in such existing earthen graves as can be opened to the depth of five feet, without exposing or displacing human remains; for the burial of widowers, widows, parents and unmarried children of those already interred therein; and in such reserved grave spaces as have never before been buried in, for so many members of the Family, as can be buried at or below the depth of five feet."

The custom of interments in churchyards was introduced into England about A.D. 742 by Cuthbert, Archbishop of Canterbury, who had witnessed it at Rome.

Until 1851, when the burial-ground at Holy Trinity Church was consecrated, the graveyard around the Parish Church was the only place of interment for the inhabitants of Beaminster, save the private mortuary at Daniel's Knowle.

From 1813 to 1851, 2,291 interments took place in the old churchyard. These figures have been extracted from records kept by Daniel Gale and his father, who preceded him as sexton. Three times only during the past century have the burials exceeded a hundred in one year, *viz.* 1813—103. 1842—103. 1850—110.

Daniel Gale* was Sexton for fifty years—from July, 1830, to October, 1880—and during that period he himself interred 3,328 persons. His father, who was Sexton before him, also kept a record of burials, commencing 1813.

In 1854 Daniel Gale received from the Churchwardens £1 10s. 6d., being half a year's wages "for weeding and sweeping the churchyard and keeping Order in the Church morning an Afternoon." £1 a year extra was paid "for attending the evening lectures." No doubt much of Gale's time—"keeping order"—was occupied with the boys in the gallery.

From time immemorial it has been the custom here for the sexton to make a house to house collection at Whitsuntide, for "keeping the graves" in the churchyard. In

* One John Gale was sexton or "beadman" in 1673, he was then paid sixpence for "coveing Samuel Long's Child's grave."

recognition, he would present to each contributor "Whit-sun cakes," the number varying in proportion to the amount subscribed.

A collection was also taken at Easter by the Parish Clerk, who also distributed acknowledgments in the form of "Easter cakes."

Now the sexton—who also acts as verger—receives a weekly wage, for mowing and keeping in order both churchyards, in addition to other duties. The result is highly satisfactory, as all graves now receive equal attention, which was not the case in times past.

Members of the ancient family of Dunning, whose vault is enclosed by high iron railings in the churchyard, were for many generations buried at night by torch-light. This old custom ceased with the burial of Elizabeth Dunning in 1832. It may be imagined what a crowd of people such a weird sight brought together at the funeral.

* * * * *

Disappearing one by one, are the old tombstones from the churchyard, and of those that remain many quaint inscriptions are fast becoming obliterated.

A stone on the West side of the church to the memory of Susannah Elliott, wife of Robert, 1791, and of Betty his second wife, 1805, is inscribed—

"The mother and three children dear
All in one grave doth lie :
With two enclosed with she, behold
One on each breast doth lie."

Elizabeth, wife of Justenion Guppy, 1807—

"How much you loved,—how much lamented fell,
None but your husband's sorrowing heart can tell."

John Morgan, 1808—

"This life's a voyage, the world's a sea,
Where men are strangely toss'd about ;
Heav'n is our port ; steer thou that way,
And there thou'lt anchor safe, no doubt."

On the North side. Diana Gale, 1828—


“ My husband and my children dear,
Grieve not for me that I lie here ;
I have paid the debt that you must all
When the 'mighty on you call.”

To the memory of John Hoare, 1801, Elizabeth his wife,
1787, and others—

“ Farewell, vain world, we know enough of thee,
And now are careless what thou say'st of we ;
Thy smiles we court not, nor thy frowns we fear,
Our cares are passed,—our heads lie quiet here.
What fault you know in us take care to shun,
And look at home—enough there's to be done.”

Chapter III.

NONCONFORMITY.

OR many years before the passing of the *Act of Uniformity* in 1662, Puritanism appears to have laid a strong hold on the people of Beaminster. From the account of Archbishop Laud's Visitation in 1634—under the title of "*A Remembrance of the Church of Sarum in very many Particulars*"—we learn that such was the case from the following statement—"You may please to take Notice, that in most Parishes in Wiltshire, Dorsetshire and the western partes, there is still a Puritane and an honest man chosen churchwardens together. The Puritane always crosses the other in repayres and adorning the Church, as also in the presentments of unconformities; and in the issue puts some trick or other upon the honest man, to put him to sue for his charges, hee hath been at for the Church. You shall find it at this instant in the Parish of Beaminster, in Dorsettschyre, between Crabb and Ellery, the suit now depending."*

It is evident from this that the Puritans had elected the people's warden, who held in check the "honest man," *i.e.* the Vicar's warden.

John Banger Russell in his MS. notes says—"The Doctrines of the Puritans met here with a favourable Reception, insomuch that at the Breaking forth of the Rebellion† the Majority of the Townsmen were so violent against the King and the Hierarchy, as perhaps any People in the whole Kingdom. All the Orders of Religious Sects, with which the Age of Charles so much abounded, were planted in this little town; they were all equally zealous in the Cause of the Parliament, and equally exasperated against the King and his Adherents."

* Report IV. *Historical MSS. Commission*. App., p. 131.

† Civil War, 1642-9.

The following extract from the Beaminster Parish Rate Book [1630-74] gives us some particulars of Puritan practices during the Commonwealth—

“(Memorand. that) the fourteenth day of May, 1656, ther was a solemne ordinat (ion of nine) ministers in Beamister Church, where Mr. St(anley Go)wer of Dorchester (prea)ched, Mr. Sho(rt) of Li(me) prayed, Mr. (Jess)oppe of (Wareha)m concluded by an (exh)ortation after Ordinacon (the w)hole wor(ke) lasted from haulf an houre p(ast) (e)ight t(il)l (neere) eight att after noone, 7 of (the) 9 Minister(s) (were Cur)atts, they were ordeyned each (by) a several (presbiter) who proposed questions and prayed—imp(osition of) hands was used by a co(mpe)tent (n)umber of the (presbiters) to every one soe ordeyned, the w(whole) worke (was p̃fōrmed) in a solemne godly and orderly way, in (a very great) Assembly both Clergy and La(y)ty.”*

Jōhes Russell.

This entry is signed by and in the handwriting of John Russell one of the overseers of the poor for the year 1656, he appears to have resided in “fleeete streete.”

Only a small portion of the page on which the above record is inscribed now remains—time has destroyed the paper and some of the writing. The missing letters and words have been supplied from J. B. Russell’s transcription made about the year 1790.

The Rev. Stanley Gower was Rector of Holy Trinity, Dorchester, in 1650, and continued till 1660; he was educated at Oxford. The Rev. Amos Short, M.A., of Exeter College, Oxford, was Vicar of Lyme Regis in 1650, he was deprived in 1662 and in the year 1685 convicted at Lyme of holding Nonconformist services there and sent to Dorchester jail for five months. This must have been in the early part of the year, for before the landing of Monmouth at Lyme Regis, in June, he had been transferred to Portsmouth prison with others and there “laid in a dungeon.” His arrest was in obedience to a royal order requiring the lord-lieutenants of counties to seize and apprehend “all

* Hutchins says: “The service used at the Ordination of Dr. Edmund Calamy in 1694, which was the first public transaction of that kind which had taken place among the Dissenters since the passing of the Act of Uniformity, lasted from ten o’clock in the morning till past six in the evening. The Dissenting Ministers have since found out a method of reducing these solemnities within a much shorter compass.” See *Biographia Britannica*, Vol. III, p. 143, Kippis’s edition.

disaffected and suspicious persons,* and particularly non-conformist ministers." Mr. Short's imprisonment probably saved his life, as when Jeffreys held his "Bloody Assizes" at Dorchester and Taunton, he was safely out of harm's way.

The "solemn ordination of nine ministers in Beaminster Church" took place during the incumbency of the Rev. Joseph Crabb, M.A., who continued to hold the living, and after the Rev. Jerome Turner's death in 1655,† that of the Mother Church of Netherbury also, until he was ejected at the Restoration. Some time afterwards he "conformed to the Establishment" and became Vicar of Axminster. Dr. Edmund Calamy in his *Account of the Ministers ejected by the Act of Uniformity*, Vol. 1, p. 487, says—

"After continuing for some time a Nonconformist he accepted of Axminster in Devon, and continued Minister there to the day of his death, when he was about 80 years of age. Tho' he was in the Established Church yet in his principles and way of preaching and praying he so resembled the Nonconformist Ministers, that he was still looked upon as one of them. He visited some of his ejected Brethren when persecuted and imprisoned; sheltered, and did good offices to others, and shewed on all occasions that his heart was with them."

He died in 1699 and was buried in Beaminster Church. This we know by entries in the Parish Register and Churchwardens' Book—

"1699 Joseph Crab, minister of Axminster. Bur. Nov. XXI "

and in the Churchwardens' accounts—

"1699 Recd. for breaking the Ground in Church when Mr. Crabb was buried 00 . 06 . 08."

After the passing of the *Act of Uniformity* in 1662 a Nonconformist congregation was formed at Beaminster, in which no doubt Mr. Crabb had a share. The services were held in the house of Lancelot Cox—who resided in "Eastreat" and was an overseer of the poor in 1656—the worshippers numbered about one hundred, described as "people unknown, from London and places distant."‡

It does not appear that Mr. Crabb was ever the resident Minister of this congregation; that work was taken up by

* The following entries appear in a Beaminster Churchwarden's Book :

"1683—pd. for an order for desenters to apeare at Brudport, 2s."

"1683—for expense at Brudport sesions, 5s."

These persons were probably indicted under the *Conventicle Act*.

† Netherbury Register : Burials, 1655—"December 26—Jerome Turner. Clerke."

‡ Codices Manuscripti Tenisoniani. 639-926, Archbishop's Lby., Lambeth, 1669.

the Rev. Thomas Crane, M.A., Rector of Rampisham, who after his ejection from the living of that village, settled in Beaminster, and was the Pastor of the Nonconformists here until his death, at the age of 84 in 1714. His burial is recorded in the parish register—"1714 Thomas Crane. Aug. ye XI."

J. B. Russell, writing about the year 1779, says—"There was lately an Inscription on one of the Tombs near the Church Porch, in Memory of 3 Presbyterian* Ministers, who lived in the time of Cromwell's Usurpation—one of these is said to have been the Minister of Rampisham. This Inscription gave offence to some over-nice Persons who had it removed."

It was during the ministry of the Rev. Thomas Crane that the ill-starred Duke of Monmouth landed at Lyme Regis. Amongst the prominent Nonconformists of our town who joined his standard was James Daniel.† Marching with the army of the Protestant Duke through Axminster, Taunton, and Bridgwater to Sedgemoor, the old man of 74 was present at the last battle fought in England.

Affixed to the north wall of the Congregational Chapel is a white marble tablet, placed there to perpetuate the memory of James Daniel's miraculous deliverance from his pursuers. The following is a copy of the inscription it bears—

Sacred to the Memory of

James Daniel, Gent.,

an ancient inhabitant of this town, and long distinguished for his christian character, his protestant nonconformity and his zealous devotion to the cause of civil and religious freedom.

Under the tyranny of King James the Second,
he endured much disquietude for conscience' sake, and on one occasion narrowly escaped falling into the hands of the government emissaries who were appointed to apprehend him.

The burial ground on the family estate in the neighbourhood, and in which his remains, and those of his descendants, are interred, was designed by him to indicate the place,
and commemorate the event, of his wonderful concealment.

He died in the year of our Lord 1711, aged 100 years.

His Surviving Relatives of the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh
Generations

have united to rear this Tablet,
in honour of the Piety and Principles of their Patriarchal Ancestor
1835.

Tempora Mutantur.

* Nonconformists were at first called Presbyterians.

† See Chapter IX.

J. B. Russell's MS. informs us that—"Among the Church party—after the Strodes—may be reckoned the Family of Hoskins . . . But the Dissenters were the most numerous . . . Of this persuasion [Anabaptists they are termed] was the Family of Daniels . . . The Hitts, Keates, Coxes, Whitmores, Wilmotts and other considerable People may be added to the Tribe of Dissenters—some of these people were very zealous in their cause, insomuch that they did not escape (some of them Excommunication) Ecclesiastical censure. The Quakers never had any considerable interest in this place."

Mr. Crane during his pastorate, was occasionally assisted in the services by the Rev. John Torner,* another ejected Minister, whom the *Act of Uniformity* had deprived of the living of North Cricket in Somerset. For five years he suffered imprisonment in Ilchester jail, during which time he preached through the grating of his prison to the people outside, and on one occasion so enraged the jailor that he attempted to shoot him. After his release he appears to have sought shelter in Beaminster.

On the death of Mr. Crane in 1714, the Rev. Thomas Hoare—a native of Hawkchurch, who was ordained with seven other Ministers at Lyme Regis, August 25th, 1687—succeeded to the sole charge, and carried on the work until his death in the year 1731.† He appears to have been a colleague of Mr. Crane's for many years, assisting him at the services in Beaminster and Waytown Chapels.

Mr. Hoare was succeeded by the Rev. John England—son of the Rev. John England of Sherborne—who remained here until 1736.

The Rev. Robert Drewitt, formerly Minister at Bridport, followed, he was in failing health and died in 1738.

Then came the Rev. Josiah Bradshaw, who was ordained at Bridport, September 26th, 1738. After nearly eight years' ministry here, he removed to Stratford, near London, in 1745.

The same year the Rev. John Bryant of Uppingham accepted an invitation to become the Pastor and remained thirty years. An interesting entry preserved in the Walter

* The Rev. John Torner was sometime Chaplain to the Regiment of John Fitz-James, Esquire (afterwards Sir John), of Leweston, near Sherborne, in the Parliamentary army during the Civil War.

† "1731—Mr. Hoare, Minister. Buried 28th May." Parish Register.

Wilson MSS., in Dr. Williams' Library,* records that "at the time of his settlement he had about 200 people, consisting without exception of all the principal people in the town."

Probably down to this time services were conducted in the same house†—once the property of Lancelot Cox—in East street as in 1662. The oldest document in existence (of which the following is a transcript) relating to the Chapel, no doubt refers to this building—

"Beamister Secunda—The Seventeenth day of June in the Seventh Year of the Reigne of o^r Sovereign Lord William the Third King of England c^t. Anno Dmi 1695.

Edward Hitt thelder of Beamister in the County of Dorsett, Maulster, and Lancelott Hoskins of Beamister afores^d Sail cloath maker, did surrender into the hands of Edward Keech and Joseph Way customary Tenents of the Manor of Beamister Secunda all that house or structure now co^monly called the meeting house situate in Eastreet in Beamister afo^rsd between the dwelling houses there of Joshua Cox on the one side and of Thomas Boel on the other side . . . To the use of Thomas Hoore‡ of Beamister afores^d Clerke and of Mary the now wife of the s^d Thomas Hoore for the terme of their lives joyntly and of the life of the longer liver of them"

Probably Edward Hitt and Lancelott Hoskins were trustees but there is nothing to shew this.

An Indenture dated 15th July, 1749, states that "John Wilkinson of Beamister, Gentleman, and John Stacy of Corfe, Brizle Grazier, surrender a plot of land adjoining the Meeting house to John Daniel and Samuel Cox. It being intended by the proprietors of the said Meeting house to pull down the same and rebuild it further back from the street on part of the said garden or plot of land."

This document is endorsed in the handwriting of John Daniel. "Memorand—That Mr. John Wilkinson is to have a good Seat in the New Meeting House

[Signed] Jno. Daniel.
Samuel Cox."

* Gordon Square, London.

† Called the "Tan House." In 1743 there was a "Notice of Vestry Meeting given in the parish Church and dissenting Meeting house."

‡ Rev. Thomas Hoar, the Minister.

By a Surrender of 13th July, 1749, Mary Hoare and Catherine Hitt "for divers good and valuable considerations," surrendered the Chapel premises to the use of John Daniel and Samuel Cox upon trust for ever there-after to permit and suffer the said Meeting House and premises to be resorted to and made use of for and as a "Public Presbyterian Meeting House in such manner as the same now is and for several years last past has been resorted to and made use of and to be used in no other manner nor converted to any other use or purpose whatsoever."

"In 1749 the Meeting House belonging to the Presbyterians of this town was built, before that they used to assemble in private houses. Of late years the Dissenters here have been united, which I imagine is owing to their numbers diminishing; but formerly they had separate Ministers & held different Meetings."*

Very little information has come down to us of this old place of worship erected behind a row of cottages (which occupied the site of the present Congregational Chapel), and was approached by a narrow passage-way.

At the time of its erection, it was an absolute necessity to build "Meeting Houses" in secluded spots, both for the better protection of the fabric and for those persons who assembled for religious services therein. What the building cost, or its seating accommodation is unknown; but it appears that the old Beaminster Nonconformist families of Cox and Daniel were generous subscribers.

The following entry is extracted from one of the Chapel Minute Books—"Note—1801 Apr. 28. Sam. Cox Esq. died. Et 82. He was a liberal Contributor to the support of the Gospel Ministry here. Under his direction, and probably at much of his Expense, our present Meeting-house was erected, 1749."

The following letter concerning the disposal of seats in the Meeting House may be of interest.

"To Mr. Gerrard,

Sr, Whereas several disputes have arisen Between your family & Part of y^e Congregation about y^e Seats in the new Meeting House, & the conduct of those Persons concern'd in the Disposal of such seats been represented as Partial & unjust, we esteem it our Duty to Vindicate our Character in the following Particulars which Perhaps you may have forgotten. By artickles of agreement enter'd into on November y^e 8th, 1748. No Person could chuse a Seat in the new house til y^e money

* J. B. Russell's MS.

subscrib'd towards Building it was Paid into the hands of Persons apointed to Receive it, & that the Seats sh'd be chosen according to y^e Superiority of Subscription; Agreeable to those articles was our conduct at the Election of Seats, excepting that the first offer of a Seat was made to Mrs. Bryant as the Minister's Wife & in Consideration of the Great Service Mr. Briant had done us in Procuring money abroad for our Assistance: & whether it wou'd not have been ungenerous & ungratefull to have acted Otherwise; we leave you to Judge. You may Very well remember y^e Publick Notice of y^e Time of Meeting to Chuse Seats was given y^e Week before & that at the Time we Sent Several Messengers to desire your attendance. Your Son in your absence refuse to attend or at Least did not come till the Seats were all Chosen, & in an Angry manner resented our conduct, casting many reflections on & injuriously Treating those who had not given the least offence; had the manner of attendance been more amicable, and reason took place of Passion, present unhappy differences had been prevented. But to remedy that great uneasiness which your family express about the Seats reserv'd for them (tho' they were as good as any in the Meeting) there was an exchange made tho' with difficulty & Mrs. Tyte surrendered hers to your Son, on the Surrender of which he promised to be easie, and that y^e Money subscrib'd should be paid the Monday following.

After this we did not dream of any further resentment, nor did we think that Mrs. Bryant wou'd have been disposses'd of that Seat which by the Consent of the Congregation was allotted her, much less of y^e Publick affront afterwards given to the Minister. But whither such methods are consistent with reason or Religion we leave to the Judgment of every thinking Person. Does not the Usefulness of a Minister depend on his reputation? And is not a Regard to his Character incumbent on all especially who attend upon his ministry?

Suppose the money you subscrib'd had been all paid yet your Subscription being inferior to some others, the first choice cou'd not have fallen to your lot, and if you give your self Time for reflection you must think so too. However to promote Peace, we would pursue every rational Method, and have desir'd Mrs. Bryant quietly to yield up the seat to which she has consented. The same is now offer'd to your acceptance on the following conditions (Viz.) That the rest of the Money you subscrib'd towards Building the House be paid with the ten Shillings for the Seat, which Sum others have paid for theirs & the Yearly subscription to the Minister continued, for during the continuance of the Ministers Subscription, persons can claim a right to a Seat but no longer. Are these Proposals unreasonable? Can a Minister live on Air? or must it rest on the Shoulders of a few to support him, While others will not assist with one of their Fingers? We desire your Answer to these proposals, and if you don't approve of them, you cant be angry, if we take suitable Methods to prevent further Molestation in a Place of Publick Worship, and to secure that Seat for Mrs. Bryant which was at first allotted her.

July y^e 17th, 1750.

[Signed] James Daniel
Sam. Cox
Jno. Daniel."

This letter is in the handwriting of James Daniel.

The Meeting House was roofed with thatch, as some payments in an old account book shew—

		s.	d.
1762.	Feb. 20.	For Read for ye Meeting House ..	2 11
		„ 1,000 Spars ..	1 8
		„ 2 Days Work ye Thatcher & Boy	3 4
		„ Allowed for Drink ..	0 6

The glass of the windows was a constant source of expense, being often smashed, and frequent charges were made for mending a window, and repairing other external damage—not fair wear and tear—caused by stone-throwing, and other attacks on the building, by non-sympathizers “in the cause.”

Fires were of such common occurrence in the town, that, no doubt realising the danger of a thatch roof, the congregation decided to substitute tiles, as this entry appears in the accounts for the year 1778: “Aug 17. By cash Pd for Tyling the House as pr Bill £22 - 2 - 8.”

Mr. Bryant died here on April 24th, 1777, Aged 63 years, and was buried in the Churchyard; this we learn from an entry in the parish register: “1777 April 28—John Briant.”

The Rev. Samuel Fawcett—son of the Rev. Benjamin Fawcett, M.A., of Kidderminster—was the next Minister. He was ordained June 26th, 1776, and remained here until June, 1790, when he left the Ministry, and retired to Bridport where “he became a Banker.”

It was during his incumbency that one of the great fires of Beaminster occurred.* In one of the Chapel Minute books is this entry—

“Unhappily for the Protestant Dissenting Church and Congregation in Beminster, an awful Visitation of Divine Providence to the Town—the great Fire in 1781—destroyed the Writings, and other Records belonging to them, then in the care of the late James Daniel, Gent. Many particulars of their History, both useful and interesting, are of course irrecoverably lost.”

This will account for the mere scraps of information come down to us prior to the year 1781, and even since that date the records are lamentably incomplete, many books having been lost or destroyed as worthless; and it is only quite recently that any attempt has been made to collect those that are left, tabulate, and deposit them in a place of safety.

* See Chapter IV.

The Rev. Robert Anzelack, from Corsham, followed Mr. Fawcett, and remained until December, 1791, when he conformed to the Established Church. He was succeeded by the Rev. Thomas Thomas, of Broadway, near Ilminster, who after a short stay removed to Enfield and thence to Wareham.

In September, 1793, the Rev. Richard Taprell, of South Molton, became the Pastor; he appears to have resided at Netherbury—"He was happily settled for more than two years, when, at the pressing Invitation of the Congregation at S. Moulton, he left Beminster and returned to his former Charge, Oct. 1796."

The congregation was not long without a Pastor, for at the suggestion of Thomas Hine, one of the Deacons, they invited the Rev. John Rogers of Stratford-on-Avon—son of the Rev. John Rogers of Southwark—to become their Minister.

It appears, from an old Minute Book, that Mr. Hine, a cloth manufacturer of the town, was travelling for business purposes in the Midlands, and heard Mr. Rogers preach. He got to know that a change of pastorate would not be unwelcome to him. The letter of invitation, dated Dec. 1st, 1796, and signed by forty-three members of the congregation says—" Our Ministerial Salary at present will be Sixty Pounds, usually paid quarterly: Together with Ten Pounds or Ten Guineas, which have for some years past been paid annually, by the Bounty of some distant Friends, towards the support of the Religious Interest of our Society, and which we have no doubt will be continued, making in the whole about £70."

On July 12th, 1797, Mr. Rogers commenced his pastorate at Beaminster, when the following Ministers took part in the Ordination service—

Rev. Mr. Underwood (Dorchester) Prayer and Reading the Scriptures.

- „ „ Small (Axminster) Introductory Discourse.
- „ „ Harvey (Cerne) Ordination Prayer.
- „ „ Herdsman (S. Petherton) The Charge.
- „ „ Bishop (Axminster) Intercessory Prayer.
- „ „ Harvey (Sherborne) Sermon.
- „ „ Wilkins (Weymouth) Closing Prayer.

In the Evening Service.

- Rev. Mr. Lamb (Weymouth) First Prayer.
- „ „ Sedcole (Swanage) Sermon.
- „ „ Morren (Yeovil) Closing Prayer.

The *Evangelical Magazine* in reporting this meeting, says—"Bemminster has been in past years under that sort of preaching that has emptied many places of worship in the West of England." This remark refers to the Arianism of the times which played such a disastrously important part in the history of Nonconformity, especially in this part of the country. "Mr. Rogers was of a different spirit, and at once began to organise prayer-meetings, at first in his own house, and then in the Chapel."

Shortly after settlement, a successful attempt was made to suppress a Sunday market in the town, in which Mr. Rogers took a prominent part.* He appears also to have taken a great interest in the surrounding villages, conducting week-evening services in distant places, less easy of access a hundred years ago than they are to-day.

The following extract is from the *Christian Witness*, 1844, page 260—"Mr. Richard Hine, in company with the then Pastor, Mr. Rogers, frequently shared the perils and persecutions which in those barbarous days attended the preaching of the gospel at Stoke Abbott, until at length it was found necessary, by a successful prosecution, to punish and subdue the rioters."

One of the Beaminster Congregational Chapel books, contains a record of this event, from which we learn that "after several narrow escapes from death by throwing stones," the services conducted in the village had to be abandoned for a time. At length "a Trial-at-Law—instituted against the Clergyman,† for the concern which his son had in the Riots at Stoke—was decided at Dorchester, March 15th, 1800. The Judge fined the Defendant (Hopkins) £10 to the King, together with the Expenses of the Prosecution, which, we understand amounted to about £30 more."

The people of Poorstock—also visited by Mr. Rogers—although somewhat indifferent, were evidently less "barbarous" than the natives of Stoke Abbott, as the Minute book referred to shows—

"1797, May 14. Mr. Richard Hine, a Church Member, Native of Poorstock, in this County, touched with serious Concern for the Souls of his fellow Villagers, determined, if possible, to establish the means of Grace among them. The Lord having blessed him with prosperity

* See Chapter V.

† Rev. M. A. Hopkins, curate-in-charge.

in his secular business here, (Bemminster) he generously gave a commodious Building in the Village, belonging to himself, for this purpose, and had it decently fitted up, at his own expense, as a place of Worship. The Minister at Bemminster being willing to preach there in the Ev. of the Lord's day, and on the week day, as Circumstances might admit, opened a Lecture there this Ev. (Sab.) Text, Ps. 26, 8—Lord, I have loved the habitation of thy house, &c—Previous to this, he informed the People, in a short address, of the design of the Institution, which was purely religious; not to promote disloyalty to the Government, nor the destruction of an established Hierarchy, but the everlasting Well-being of their souls. More than 100 persons were assembled. Some of them expressed Contempt, but most heard with a degree of Attention; and as several of them said, 'Went away well pleased.'

Mr. H. experiences the saying of holy Writ verified, 'A man's foes shall be they of his own house.' His own relations in the Village, by Marriage and Blood, were inimical to the Institution; and none of them attended. May neither he nor his ever want the Money, so well laid out for the best Interest of Souls!

I, bone, quò virtus tua te vocat; I pede fausto.

Grandia laturus meritorum præmia. Hor. Ep. lib. 2. Ep. 2."

In April, 1803, an Assembly of the Dorset Association of Congregational Churches (founded at Wareham in 1795) took place at Beaminster. Probably in anticipation of that meeting, "the Galleries of the Meeting, Pulpit, Doors, &c., were painted for the first time—A just and long wanted Tribute of Respect to the House of God!"

During the early part of the nineteenth century, "Humiliation" and "Thanksgiving" services were not infrequently held in both Churches and Chapels, having especial reference to the war in which England and other European powers were then engaged. The following quaintly worded minutes may be of interest—

"1803. Sep. 21. The Dissenting Ministers in London published in the Evang. and Theolog. Magazines of this Month, an Address to their Brethren in the Country, inviting them with their respective Congregations, to observe with themselves, a solemn day of Fasting and Prayer for the Nation in its present State; and fixed on this day as the season. It was an inconvenient day for our People, being in the middle of the Annual Fair-week; but our more serious Friends wishing to join with the rest of Gospel-Churches on the same day we observed it. Near 100 Persons were present in the Morn. Service. Some few, from whom better things might have been expected, turned their Backs on it, and made it a Feast. 'Lord lay not this sin to their charge!' The Text on the occasion was, Rev. 18-4, 'Come out of her my people, &c'" In the Aft. we had a Prayer Meeting. Near, or more than, 50 Persons were present We had no Lect. in the Ev. for fear of a Riot, arising from the Circumstances of the Season."

" 1806. Dec. 5. National Thanksgiving for Lord Nelson's Victory over the Combined Fleets of France and Spain, Oct. 21, in which himself was unhappily slain. We had only service in the Morn. apprehending a Riot from the proposed Illuminations in the Ev. The Collection for the Widows and Orphans of the brave Men who fell in the Action, amounted to £4 - 7 - 6½."

During the Summer of 1806 the Wednesday evening services were discontinued—

" Wedn., Aug. 27. The Wedn. Ev. Lecture, which had been continued without interruption for almost 10 years, was this Evening given up, till more favourable Circumstances in the People's Attendance should lead to resume it. There had been, especially of late years, a very thin Auditory; and, this Ev. there were but 10 Persons. The Minister considered, that as he preached 3 times on the Lord's day, and usually repeated a Sermon at the Prayer Meeting on Monday Evenings, A 5th Sermon in the Week to the same People seemed superfluous; especially as they did not countenance it by their Presence."

In 1807 the Sunday school, which it appears, had been unsuccessfully started at an earlier date, was re-established under more promising conditions—

" June. Our Sunday-School (so called) that has been for a year or more broke up, was in this Month re-instituted, chiefly for Females.

Teacher—the Widow Larcombe, at a salary of £2 : 2 : 0 per Ann.

Place of teaching—Ann Tuck's, next door to the Meeting.

Rent of Room, 16s. per Ann.

Treasurer—Mr. Jas. Hine.

The proposed Subscriptions of the Congregation are equal to the Expenditure—If the Lord give his Blessing, it may produce some happy Effects to the rising Generation."

In 1809, on the decease of Capt. Wm. Coward, the Deacons received the sum of £50, *less legacy duty*, bequeathed by the will of his late wife, Mrs. Elizabeth Coward, who died four years previously—the interest of which money she directed " to be paid to the Minister, for the time being, and his successors in office."

After thirteen years of faithful service, Mr. Rogers resigned his charge June 10th, 1810, and left Beaminster the following August for Tisbury, Wilts, where he died in 1815. During his term of office here, details of events of considerable interest are fully recorded, the books were well kept, and to him we are indebted for much valuable information, illustrating the life and character of the times.

On July 11th, 1811, a letter of invitation—postage 11d.—was sent to the Rev. William Judson of Plymouth, who settled as Pastor the following October, receiving as salary “100 Guineas per annum, exclusive of Taxes & a Dwelling House.”

An additional payment of £10 is charged in the accounts “Coach from Plymo. Dock”—Mr. Judson remained but one year.

The Rev. J. Moore, of Hoxton College, was his successor. He was ordained in the Beaminster Chapel, October 18th, 1815. “The Congregations were crowded, and a general interest evidently excited.”* We know nothing of his Ministry, the Minute book is missing.

Mr. Moore was followed by the Rev. John Bowdon Simper, who came from Stalbridge in June, 1825, and retired in 1828.

About the dawn of the nineteenth century when a better feeling began to be shewn towards Nonconformists, it was decided to enlarge, or extend the old Meeting-house to the roadway; the cottages previously referred to having disappeared. The Chapel at that time erected is the present building, as a tablet on the wall facing the street records—

Built
1749
Enlarged
1826.

Mr. Simper says—“March 29th, 1826. This day our New Chapel was opened for publick worship. Mr. Keynes of Blandford, preached in the morning, Messrs. Devenish of Sydling and Durant of Poole, engaged in prayer. In the afternoon the Dorset Association of Independent Ministers met in the chapel, and the business of the County Association was publickly transacted. In the Evening Mr. Wills of Wareham preached, and Messrs. Richards of South Petherton and Hine of Ilminster prayed.” The collections for the day, on behalf of the building fund, amounted to £31 : 2 : 6.

A hymn, composed more than 150 years ago, was sung at the opening ceremony; an original copy, printed on a sheet of paper, now hangs in the Chapel vestry.

* *Evangelical Magazine*, 1815.

The following is a transcript—

A

Hymn

Composed by Mr. John Daniel and sung at the
opening of the Independent Meeting House,
Beaminster,

In the Year 1749.

To be sung again at the

Opening of the New Chapel

On Wednesday, March 29th, 1826.

Now let our inward joys arise
While we on Zion fix our eyes,
And view her tott'ring frame restor'd
For which we bless and praise the Lord.

With sacred rapture we survey,
Thy works of Grace, O Lord, this day ;
Inspire each note, and tune each string,
While in thy House thy praise we sing.

Aid us to sing of mercy shewn,
And of salvation shower'd down
On this thy Church, and may it shine,
With brighter rays of grace divine.

Deep on the palms of sacred hands
Engrav'd the name of Zion stands,
Dwells on the hearts of sacred love,
An emblem of the Church above.

Here let the unbelieving soul,
Own and receive thy mild controul ;
Here let thy saints improve in grace
And grow in knowledge of thy ways.

O let our souls be form'd anew,
And in this house thy glory view ;
Instruct our feet to climb the way
That leads to realms of heav'nly day.

Oliver, Printer, &c., Beaminster.

All the documents pertaining to the Chapel enlargement are missing, and the total cost—possibly about £700—is not known. The list of subscribers headed “Inhabitants of Beaminster, and members of the congregation” include Saml. & Peter Cox, R. Conway, Jas. Daniel, Thos. & B. Fox, T. Gould, J. Gifford, Benjm. Geo. Jas. & Richd. Hine,

I. Oliver, John Banger & Thos. Russell, J. & W. Tite, J. Swaffield, B. Seymour, and many others who contributed to the funds.

In April, 1828, a letter of invitation, signed by eighty-one members of the congregation, was sent to the Rev. Alfred Bishop of Ringwood, who soon afterwards became the Pastor. He was the son of the Rev. William Evans Bishop of Lewes. Shortly after commencing his ministry in Beaminster—which extended over twenty-seven years—he placed an organ* in the singer's gallery of the Chapel. New hymn books, locally printed, also commemorated Mr. Bishop's coming. The primitive little pamphlet, with paper covers, of only 30 pages, contains but 27 hymns bearing title—

A
Collection
of
Psalms & Hymns
For the use
of the
Independent Chapel
Beaminster

Beaminster
Printed by I. Oliver.
1828.

Mr. Bishop was an eloquent, powerful and popular preacher; many of his sermons were, at the time, printed in London. He also published many pamphlets, two of which are in the writer's possession—

(1). "A Letter to Samuel Cox, Esq., Of Beaminster; One of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Dorset. By Alfred Bishop. 1829."

(2). "The Question Answered; 'Can Dissenting Congregations Claim The Blessings Promised To United Worship?' including remarks on a Sermon recently delivered in Beaminster Church, by the Rev. W. Maskell, A.M., Curate of Corscombe. By Alfred Bishop, Beaminster. *In magnis, veritas, in aliis libertas, in omnibus charitas.*

Printed by J. Prince, Bridport, 1839."

In 1838 Susanna Petty bequeathed £50 to the use of the Chapel Minister. The following is an extract from the

* Purchased by the Committee in 1857 for £55 os. od.

Will of Susanna Petty, late of Froom Saint Quinton, Dorset, Widow, dated 10th January, 1838, and proved in the Pre-rogative Court of Canterbury, 29th August, 1838, by Samuel Daniel Hine the sole Executor.

" . . . Also I give and bequeath the sum of Fifty Pounds to be raised from such of my Personal Estate as shall not consist of Chattels real, within three calendar Months next after my decease and laid out and invested in the name or names of my Executor Samuel Daniel Hine of Ashill in the County of Somerset Clothier and John Petty of Froom Saint Quinton aforesaid Gentleman or the survivor of them his Exōrs or Admōrs in or upon any of the parliamentary or public Stocks or Funds in trust that they and the survivor of them and the Exōrs Admōrs and other personal representatives of such survivor in perpetual succession do and shall from time to time yearly or oftener as the same shall be received pay the Dividends interest and annual produce of the said Securities unto and to the use of the Minister for the time being of the Society of Protestant Dissenters who assemble for Religious worship at Beaminster in the said County of Dorset of which the Reverend Alfred Bishop is now the Minister. And I further declare and direct that it shall be lawful for the said Samuel Daniel Hine and John Petty or the survivor of them his exōrs or admōrs to assign the said Legacy given for the benefit of the Beaminster Congregation or the Stocks or Funds purchased therewith to any persons whom they or he may think fit to be Trustees of the same either exclusively or jointly with my Trustees herein named or either of them. And with such powers for renewal of Trustees or other purposes as my Trustees herein named or the survivor of them his exōrs or admōrs shall deem proper."

In 1846 the house and premises adjoining the Chapel were purchased. For many years after it was the residence of the Chapel caretaker, whilst in a part of the building both day and Sunday schools were conducted.

The premises were Copyhold in the Manor of Beaminster Secunda and surrendered 29th December, 1846, by the vendors to Benjamin Seymour of Beaminster, Ironmonger, and Joseph Tite of Clenham Mills, Flax-spinner.

" Upon such Trusts and for such ends, intents and purposes as in and by a certain Indenture bearing even date therewith and made between Robert Conway of Beaminster Merchant of the first part (Vendor) The Rev. Alfred Bishop of the same place Minister of the Gospel and Henry Field Fisher of Blandford, Draper (other vendors), of the second part, and the said Benjamin Seymour and Joseph Tite of the third part."

The Trust Deed recites the Surrender and declares that the premises shall be held—

" Upon trust to appropriate and use the same hereditaments and premises, or to apply the rents and proceeds thereof for the purpose of

promoting and encouraging Religion and Religious Education according to the principles of and in connection and co-operation with the Church or body of Christians now using to assemble in the said Chapel situate in East Street in Beaminster aforesaid."

In 1855 Mr. Bishop took his departure to Tunbridge Wells, without leaving any record, excepting the Register—as far as the writer knows—of his Pastorate in Beaminster.

The Rev. George Waterman, M.A., of Poole succeeded. He was a native of the United States, and had been educated under Dr. Lyman Beecher. "He found the church in a weaker state than it had been for many years, partly, no doubt, because by this time the manufacturing trade had entirely left the town and neighbourhood; he retired discouraged in Decr., 1857." For twenty-five years the population of the district had been rapidly decreasing, and many Nonconformist families had left the town. During Mr. Waterman's short stay he took great interest in the Sunday school.

The next Minister was the Rev. John Cooke Westbrook, who came from Redbourne, Herts, in January, 1858. He retired after only two months' residence, never taking another charge.

The church was now so reduced financially, that it remained for two years without a Pastor. During that period the Rev. — Stembridge of Bridport, and other supplies regularly conducted the Sunday services.

At length it was decided to apply to the "Home Missionary Society" for aid. Philip Hine opposed the appeal, and resigned his office of Deacon. In making his last entry in the Minute book, dated December 31st, 1859, he says—

"The Chapel at this time is in good repair, and no debt whatever remains on it. Under these circumstances the writer cannot see it to be right to give up the old place of worship to any society however excellent, or to receive their pecuniary assistance."

In January, 1860, the Home Missionary Society arranged with the Rev. John Thomson of Aberdeen to go to Beaminster with a view to the pastorate; this he did, and shortly afterwards settled as Minister. The congregation increased and there was undoubted evidence of a great revival. A sum of about £50 was spent on the Chapel and schoolroom adjoining, and a Congregational Library was organised.

After four years of successful work, Mr. Thomson relinquished his charge July 6th, 1864, and removed to Lightcliffe, Yorkshire.

In September the same year the Rev. Thomas Neave of Perth, N.B., accepted the pastorate, and remained until July, 1869, when he left for Dorchester. Mr. Neave was an able and ready speaker, and was the pioneer of open-air services organised in the Market-place on Sunday evenings, in which he was heartily supported by his congregation. It was during his pastorate that a local branch of the "Young Men's Christian Association" was formed at Beaminster, in 1868. The Rev. W. C. Templer, Rector of Burton Bradstock, Rev. Talbot Greaves and Dr. Drew, both of Weymouth, and others interested in the movement, delivered lectures to the members, and the society flourished.

The Rev. Peter Johnson, B.A., from Appledore, North Devon, succeeded the Rev. Thomas Neave in the following November, and continued until 1872, when the difficulty of securing a suitable residence caused his resignation and exit to Barnstaple. Then followed, in April, 1873, the Rev. Thomas Sheldon of Manchester, who left in August the same year.

After a short interval, an invitation was sent to the Rev. Uriah Brodribb Randall, M.A., of Guernsey, signed by John Cox Williams, Chairman of the Committee, and eighty-two members of the congregation. Mr. Randall accepted, and commenced his ministry December 28th, 1873.

In the Autumn of 1877 it was decided to modernise and re-arrange the interior of the Chapel. Some such transformation was sadly needed. The pews—many of which had never received a coat of paint—were so high that the worshippers when seated were almost entirely hidden, while the straight-back benches made long sermons the acme of discomfort. Each pew had its door which swung to and fro on massive iron hinges. The pulpit was affixed to the north wall, half-way up to the ceiling; it faced the singer's gallery, in which stood the organ. This unsightly gallery obscured light from the two large south windows, and made the interior gloomy in the extreme.

On Good Friday, April 19th, 1878, the Chapel was re-opened for public worship, the building having undergone much alteration. The old high pews had been swept away, and comfortable modern seats substituted; the singer's gallery had been removed and the organ re-erected on a

platform on the ground floor; the two side galleries had had their fronts cut down, the whole place had been thoroughly cleaned and painted, making the Chapel a bright and attractive sanctuary. About £280 appear to have been expended on the work.

At the re-opening services, in addition to the Pastor, the following Ministers took part—Revds. Thos. Neave (Dorchester), F. J. Austin (Bridport), F. Clarke (Charmouth), S. Giblet (Morcombelake), F. Vaughan (Broadwinsor), and E. Bolton (Weymouth).

The same year, August 9th, the Chapel and premises adjoining were enfranchised, when the Board of Charity Commissioners appointed the following Trustees—

Alfred Hine, Druggist.

John Hine, Wine Merchant.

Henry Lawrence, Baker.

James Rendell, Grocer.

John Cox Williams, Draper, all of Beaminster.

Isaac Orchard Trevett, Carriage Builder, of Melplash,

in place of

Richard Hine, Druggist, Beaminster.

Robert Conway, Gentleman, Plymouth.

Benjamin Seymour, Ironmonger, Weymouth.

John Petty Hine, Clothier, Broadway, Ilminster.

Elizabeth Petty Hine, Spinster, Thickthorn, Ilminster.

In the matter of the following Charities :

- (i). The Presbyterian Dissenting Chapel, Beaminster.
- (ii). The School in connection with the said Chapel.
- (iii). The Bequest of Susanna Petty for the benefit of the Minister of the same Chapel.
- (iv). The Bequest of Elizabeth Coward for the benefit of the said Minister.

These "Charities," together with the Manse in connection with the Chapel, comprised in an Indenture dated 11th July, 1902, were by an Order of the Charity Commissioners, sealed 24th May, 1910—and were then vested in the following Trustees—

John Hine.

Isaac Orchard Trevett

Richard Hine.

John Swaffield.

James Woodbury Bugler.

William George Genge Swaffield.

Henry Herbert Hill.

In 1886 the schoolroom, adjoining the Chapel, was renovated at a cost of £50. Under the presidency of the Pastor

the Y.M.C.A. meetings were regularly held, lectures given and papers read by the members and by visitors from Bridport and other places.

In 1888 the Chapel at Stoke Abbott was put under the charge of the Minister at Beaminster.

It was during Mr. Randall's pastorate, that the *Burials Act* was passed, and he was the first Nonconformist Minister to officiate at a funeral* in Beaminster, since the passing of the *Act of Uniformity*, just two hundred years previously.

To the very great regret of every member of the congregation the Pastor in March, 1890, resigned his charge, "finding himself quite unequal to the additional work which the care of the Chapel at Stoke Abbott devolved upon him." After nearly seventeen years of "quiet, steady, happy and useful work" in Beaminster, Mr. Randall retired from the Ministry and left the neighbourhood to reside at Hendon. His departure from the town was universally regretted.

The Rev. William Akehurst Bevan, from Crediton, East Devon—where he had been the Pastor for fourteen years—immediately succeeded, his Recognition services being held on April 4th, 1890. Shortly after his arrival Mr. Bevan was instrumental in merging the Y.M.C.A. into a "Young People's Association." Periodical social gatherings took place in the schoolroom which were largely attended, and became very popular for a while. In March, 1895, Mr. Bevan left for Landport, Hants. For some time before his departure a considerable decline in the congregation had taken place, and several Nonconformist families severed their connection with their old place of worship.

For some months the Chapel had no settled Pastor, and the Rev. F. Vaughan of Broadwinsor, assumed control of the services.

In September, 1895, an invitation was sent to the Rev. Frank Coram† who had just completed his curriculum at the Western College, Plymouth. The following December Mr. Coram commenced his ministry, and at once set about renovating the interior of the Chapel. It was entirely due to his energy and enthusiasm that the money needed for the work—£150—was within a few months subscribed. In

* With the exception of Daniel's Knowle Burial Ground.

† Ordained at Beaminster, September 24th, 1896.

addition to cleaning and painting, the two south windows of the Chapel were glazed with "cathedral" glass, a great improvement to the unsightly semi-whitewashed panes which before had filled the windows.

After three years' ministry Mr. Coram resigned the pastorate in November, 1898, for a larger sphere of labour at Wellington, Salop.

In June, 1899, the Rev. James William Pointer became Pastor, coming to Beaminster from Shaftesbury, where he had ministered for twenty years.

In November, 1901, Mrs. J. P. Stembridge generously gave an organ for the schoolroom. This instrument is an interesting relic of by-gone days, and bears a plate inscribed—

Old Father Smyth*
Maker
Repaired by Jno. Vincent
Organ Builder
No. 3, Buckingham Place, Fitzroy Square
London.

During Mr. Pointer's pastorate, the house he occupied—known as Whitcombe Cottage—was offered for sale by public auction. Realising the difficulty Ministers of the past had experienced in securing suitable residences, the members of the congregation at once decided to purchase the property; this they did at a cost of £385, which amount included enfranchisement, some repairs, and the legal expenses connected with its transfer. A small committee was formed for the purpose of liquidating the debt, and in response to their appeal for help, donations from the congregation and their friends, both far and near, were readily forthcoming. In addition to the money subscribed about £60 was raised by entertainments and jumble sales. In February, 1906, the Manse was declared to be free of debt.

The sudden death of Mr. Pointer, at the age of 61, in December 1902, cast a dark cloud over the congregation, for by his sterling work he had endeared himself to every member of his flock. The interment took place in Holy

* "Father" Schmidt was a famous organ builder whose family came to England about 1660, just after the restoration of the Stuarts, when organs were being built to replace those destroyed by the Puritans. Schmidt was noted for the quality of tone he produced, and many of our cathedral and church organs to-day contain stops by this noted builder.

Trinity Churchyard ; the body was, *en route*, rested in the Congregational Chapel, where a portion of the funeral service was held, the officiating ministers being the Revs. J. Ogle (Sherborne), J. Menzies (Bridport), and W. Vine (Broadwinsor).

For six months no minister was appointed.

In January, 1903, the Chapel at Stoke Abbott was transferred from Beaminster to the care of the Pastor at Broadwinsor ; this change reduced the grant from the " Dorset Association " to Beaminster Chapel, from £50 to £40 *per annum*.

On July 1st, 1903, the Rev. James Alfred Balshaw, having retired from the pastorate at Cerne Abbas, settled as Minister.

During the year 1904, to the great regret of many, the quaint old thatched Chapel at Waytown—which in 1871, together with the Netherbury Chapel, was placed under the supervision of the Minister at Beaminster—through neglect, fell a prey to the ravages of time and weather. In both of these places of worship Mr. William Bishop Swatridge had for thirty-five years officiated, journeying from Beaminster every Sunday for the services.

On December 25th, 1904, Mr. Balshaw resigned his charge, having decided to retire from the active ministry. He however continued to conduct the services until the appointment of his successor, the Rev. J. Clement Angel, who came to Beaminster from Nantwich in April, 1905.

In August, 1905, it was decided to clear away the ruins of Waytown Chapel, and build a new one on its site, but the work was not commenced until the spring of 1906. The foundation stone bears the following inscription—" This stone was laid by Mr. Stephen Champ, Mayor of Bridport, July 12th, 1906." The " handsome little modern stone building," which cost £300 and has seating accommodation for a hundred people, was formally opened on May 23rd, 1907, and again placed under the direction of the Bridport Minister.

The Beaminster Chapel of to-day is a lofty building, just 40 feet square, it can seat two hundred worshippers—when needs be—on the ground floor, and about one hundred in the two galleries.

The Chapel Registers are lamentably incomplete. There remains a small book which contains a list of " Persons baptized by Rev. Samuel Fawcett," commencing with an

entry dated April 6th, 1777, and ends September 13th, 1789. In the volume is also recorded a list of Communicants for the years 1775 to 1782.

Another book comprises a "Register of Births & Baptisms copied from the Original (when sent to London) by Alfred Bishop." The entries date from 1793 to 1837, and from 1868 to 1874. The book contains also a list of "Marriages celebrated in the Chapel by Alfred Bishop," dating from 1837 to 1855. The Registers from 1874 to the present time are only fairly complete.

In addition to the Daniel monument before mentioned, there are two brass tablets affixed to the walls. One on the east side—

In Memory of
Philip Hine
for many years one of the Deacons of the
Church worshipping in this Chapel
He died Janry 22, 1867.
Aged 56 years.
"The memory of the Just is Blessed."

The other on the west wall—

In Memory of
Richard Hine,
Born 1768, Died 1844.
Also his Son
Richard Hine,
Born 1803, Died 1878.
And Grandson
Alfred Hine,
Born 1826, Died 1882.
Who Worshipped Here.

Two hundred and fifty years have rolled away since the Rev. Thomas Crane became the Pastor of the "Protestant Nonconformists" at Beaminster. Tyrannical sovereigns have come and gone, harsh and unjust laws have been swept away, civil and religious liberties have been granted; and, if the staunch old Puritans could come back, surely they would re-echo the final sentence inscribed on the marble tablet over the Chapel pulpit—

"Tempora Mutantur."

* * * * *

WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL.

During the years 1856-7 the late Rev. John Stevens, Wesleyan Supernumary Minister of Bridport—then 70 years of age—was “almost incessantly engaged about twenty months” writing and collecting information concerning the Wesleyan movement in this neighbourhood. In the preface to the work he says—

In consequence of ill-health and the infirmities brought on by the toils of forty-one years, the writer of the following pages was obliged, at the conference of 1854 to relinquish the full work of the Wesleyan Ministry, retire into comparative private life, and wait for the termination of his earthly pilgrimage, and the promised reward of all his labours.

Being thus relieved from the grave responsibilities of a Superintendent, which he had borne for thirty-three years, and freed from the cares and anxieties attendant upon connexional and circuit affairs, his health gradually improved till he gained a considerable degree of convalescence. Wishful to employ his recovered strength and improve the time that was now at his command, he thought it would be a useful occupation to himself and interesting to many of his esteemed friends to write “The History of Wesleyan Methodism in Bridport and its Vicinity.”

The history is a bound quarto volume of 594 pages in manuscript, and is in the possession of Mr. James Beach of Bridport. The owner kindly placed the book in the hands of the writer, who feels he cannot but quote *verbatim* Mr. Stevens’s account of the introduction of Wesleyan Methodism into Beaminster, from the early part of the last century to the year 1857.

“In 1810 two junior ministers were appointed to the South Petherton Circuit. To it Bridport had recently been added. One of these young men was deputed to act as a Missionary under the direction of his Superintendent.

“As he had opportunity he visited several places in the locality of his station, and essayed to enlarge his circuit.

“In the course of the year 1811 Mr. William Tutchet accompanied the Rev. William Flint to Beaminster. They had not long been in the house,* which had been previously engaged for preaching, before the clergyman [Rev. William James Brookland, Vicar of Netherbury and Beaminster] came in to complain of their intrusion into his parish. A discussion ensued which lasted several hours. The Rev. Mr. Brookland was so closely pressed on his ordination

* This house was probably in North Street, for in J. B. Russell’s MS. is the following entry: “In North Street is a Methodist Meeting House,” *circa* 1797.

vows, and on different points of doctrine contained in the articles of Belief, and the Book of Common Prayer, that he was silenced, but not convinced we believe of his error—and gave up the controversy. On his departure he said ‘Well, if you can do the people any good, do so.’

The cause, however, was not permanently established at that time. In 1815 the Rev. John Weville was appointed to Axminster, and came to Bridport in his turn. Here he was informed that a Mr. Bunt, an Excise Officer—with his family, was living in Beaminster. Mr. Bunt was a Cornish Methodist, and as Mr. Weville himself was a Cornish man, he resolved to pay this friend a visit. Accordingly, he went over to Beaminster, and preached in Mr. Bunt’s house. A small Society was soon after formed, and preaching continued under his roof all the remaining time of his residence in the town.

The Rev. Mr. Brookland felt himself annoyed with Mr. Bunt’s Methodistical proceedings, and he incited others against him. The affair at length ripened into a conspiracy, to get him dismissed from his post. Mr. Brookland—or some of his confederates in the plot—preferred charges against him to the Board of Excise. They accused him of neglecting his duty, and averred that he spent so much time amongst the Methodists as to occasion injury and loss to the King’s Service.

On the receipt of these accusations an Officer was immediately sent down from London to investigate the allegations. Mr. Bunt was required forthwith to make a return of all the seizures he had made during the preceding twelve months. The return of business that he had done, showed that he had been the most active man, and done more than any other officer in the District. The enquiry ended—to the honour of Mr. Bunt, and entire satisfaction of the Board. The false charges of Mr. Brookland and his co-complainants were dismissed, and they themselves regarded as persecutors of an upright man, whose conscience could only be pacified by doing all the good to his neighbours he was able.

When Mr. Bunt removed from Beaminster the house he had occupied was taken on for a year, that preaching might be continued in the town. On June 14th, 1818, Dr. Roberts [of Bridport] preached, but at that time there was no Society. As one of the Local Preachers he often visited the place, and exhorted the people to ‘flee from the wrath to come.’

Though the Society had ceased to be, the Travelling Preachers from Axminster still retained Beaminster on their plan, and in their regular rounds preached once a fortnight, on a Wednesday evening.

A Prayer Meeting was also held once in every week, and on Sunday Evening the Local Preachers conducted a service. All these services were held in a room in the same street in which the Wesleyan Chapel is erected. [The services were conducted in a loft situate in the back premises which is now the Star Inn, the house at that time being occupied by one John Hallett, a baker]. William Honey, who then resided in Beaminster, paid all the expenses incurred by the board and lodging of the Ministers during their stay. Elizabeth Ward—who afterwards married Mr. Honey—supplied the candles, and otherwise assisted the cause. In 1821 a class of sixteen members was formed by Honey and his intended wife. On their marriage in 1823, they departed from the town; the Society was soon after broken up, and the place was relinquished for ten or twelve years.

In October, 1836, the Ministers stationed in Bridport—the Revs. Akerman and Smeeth—desired and endeavoured to re-establish Wesleyan Methodism in Beaminster. They made application to the Authorities, and the use of the Town Hall was allowed them. This building was occupied by the congregation for about one year and a half. The disposition for hearing the Gospel was awakened and the attendance generally was large.

In 1839 the present chapel was built, and for a while things appeared very promising. Now, [1857] however, neither the Society, nor the Congregation, can be regarded as in a prosperous state. Both have suffered loss by the removal of persons and families from the town. Other parties have emigrated to distant lands. Not a few have grown weary in well-doing, and have withdrawn from the Church. But in spite of many discouragements the Grace of God has been manifested in the sound conversion of a few. Two Leaders have departed in the faith of Christ, and other members had hope in their death, so that the ministers have not journeyed and preached to no purpose. The number of persons now [1857] in the Society is only 9."

* * * * *

The foundation stone of the Chapel was laid by Mr. John Barnicott of Bridport, on Easter Monday, 1839, and was opened for public worship, by the Rev. W. L. Thornton of Bath, on July 24th the same year.

The following is a summary of the building accounts—

<i>Receipts.</i>				<i>Expenditure.</i>			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Money borrowed ..	200	0	0	Paid Mr. Warr (wood-			
Beaminster Subscrip-				work, etc.) ..	204	15	0
tions ..	100	0	0	Paid Mr. Chambers			
Subscriptions from				(stonework, etc.)	156	6	0
Bridport, Lyme				Land and Deed ..	95	0	0
Regis, &c. ..	252	17	0	Forms ..	5	0	0
Collection at opening	25	10	7	Mr. Galpin for Plans	3	0	0
				Printing and Stationery	5	16	9
				Cash in hand ..	108	9	10
	£578	7	7		£578	7	7

From the following entry in one of the Minute books, it appears that the Chapel was lit by candles.*

At a meeting of the Trustees held at Bridport, August 14th, 1839—"It was resolved . . . that candle-sticks be provided—as cheap as possible, the sum not to exceed £2 : 0 : 0."

The money in hand was no doubt expended on painting and other necessary work, leaving the amount borrowed an outstanding liability of £200.

This debt on the premises remained until the year 1876, when a Mr. Walbridge, of Loders, bequeathed £45 to the Trustees; this sum was augmented by a donation of £25 from Mr. Thomas Beach of Bridport. It was decided to apply the money towards liquidating the debt on the Chapel, and to make an appeal for further pecuniary help. The amount required was in a few months over-subscribed by about £65. This surplus was at once expended in putting the building in thorough repair, and the Chapel was re-opened on Whit Monday, May 21st, 1877. Services of a thanksgiving character were held during the afternoon and evening, and a public tea took place in the Town Hall.

* Gas taken into the building 1854.

About this time a white marble tablet was affixed to the west wall in the Chapel. It bears the following inscription—

Sacred
To the Memory of
George Chambers
For many years a member
and office bearer of this Church
He departed in Peace May 19th, 1852.
Aged 40 years.
Also of
Amelia, his first, and
Susan, his second wife.
This tablet is erected
By their Children
In affectionate remembrance,
August, 1876.

During the year 1867 the present rostrum was erected in the Chapel in place of the original high pulpit.

Until 1869, a flute and bass-viol led the singing of the choir and congregation, then a harmonium superseded these old-time instruments.

In 1884 on account of the increased number of Sunday-school scholars, it was decided to erect a schoolroom for their accommodation, and a comfortable room was built on iron pillars inside the Chapel over the entrance, at a cost of about £60. To commemorate the Centenary Chapel's jubilee in 1889, about £80 were subscribed and employed in its restoration. The building now contains two hundred sittings.

During the year 1909, sundry repairs being necessary, it was resolved to raise a sufficient sum of money to not only repair but also improve the condition of the premises by internal decoration and externally by the addition of a small vestry; for the purpose about £65 were subscribed.

On November 5th, 1909, the Chapel was registered for solemnizing Marriages.

* * * * *

It is an annual custom to have a midnight service in the Chapel on New Year's Eve. "Watch Night" services amongst Methodists date from 1761, when John Wesley conducted a midnight vigil on the passing of the year.

Although more than half the population have left the


town since the sanctuary was built, the congregation is well maintained, and the Sunday school continues to prosper under the able Superintendency of Mr. Henry Crocker, who has for more than twenty years laboured for the cause of Wesleyan Methodism in this town and neighbourhood.

The Sunday and week-evening services are now conducted by the Ministers stationed in Bridport,* ably assisted by Local Preachers, without intermission, for no longer does the Vicar of Beaminster "complain of their intrusion into his parish."

* In 1913 the junior Minister (Rev. C. G. Wilkes) came to reside in Beaminster.

Chapter IV.

DISASTROUS FIRES.

HE somewhat modern appearance of old Beamister is the result of many extensive fires by which the place has been devastated, in common with other towns in the county, where thatch was universal, streets narrow and inconveniently crowded with old and partly timbered houses.

The first record we have of such a fire—one that almost swept the town out of existence—is an entry in the oldest existing Churchwardens' Account Book, 1646-1719 :

" This Towne as well as others felt the fury of the civill warres, for Año. Dñi. 1644, Aprill 14th, Palm Sunday, except the East streete, and parte of the Church streete, it was consumed by a terrible fire with the greatest part of the inhabitants goods, Prince Maurice and his Army lying then in the Towne."

John Banger Russell says: " The following Memorandum concerning this fire was written by one of the Sufferers in the blank Leaf of an Old Bible. This Bible belonged to the family of Keate and it is very probable that the Memorandum was written by one of them :

' Memorandum that the Towne of Beamister was burnt on Palme Sunday being the 14th Day of April and in the Yeare of our Lord 1644, att the same Time Prince Maurice beinge in the Towne 7 Dayes before the Fire, and there continued till the Fire burnt him out of his Quarters. The Fire was first kindled in John Sargent's House in North Streete and it was a Musket discharged in the Gable, and it was Wild Fire & the Wind being directly with the Towne, So that the whole towne was all* destroyed in Two Hours : and those Goods for the most part which were carried out of the Fire, were carried away by the Souldiers. There were Seven Score & 4 Dwelling houses besides Barns & Stables [burnt]. In the whole loss it was Eleven hundred & fifty Four Bays of Buildings. The whole loss was valued by Men of Judgment & did amount unto in all One & Twenty Thousand & Four Score Pounds at least, and my own Loss in that fire was adjudged 2 Hundred 10 Pounds.' "

* The whole town was not burnt, East street and part of Church street escaped.

It was during the reign of Charles I that this disaster occurred. Violent quarrels between Charles and the Parliament had plunged the country into the throes of a Civil War, which ended by the execution of the King in 1649.

We are told that most of the inhabitants were disaffected to the Royal cause, and it was no doubt on this account that the town was burnt by the King's soldiers under command of Prince Maurice during their march to attack Lyme Regis. The tradition is that the soldiers fired their muskets into the thatched roofs of the houses.

"When Prince Maurice lodged his Army at Beamister he was under the necessity of quartering his Soldiers in private Houses; this with many other Circumstances displeased the Inhabitants, not but that they were sufficiently disaffected before and it is reasonable to imagine that they shewed the General some Proofs of their Resentment. To what else can we attribute the Burning of the Town? The different acc^{ts} we have of it plainly evince that it was not done by Accident, neither ought one to believe it was done through Wantonness; we must therefore conclude that the Ill behaviour of the inhabitants occasioned it."*

The people of Beaminster naturally much resented the *continual* free billeting of soldiers in their homes. It so appears from the following:

"Petition of the Inhabitants of Beamister to Prince Maurice.
To The Renowned and Illustrious Prince Maurice.

The humble Petition of the Inhabitants of the Parish and Towne of Beamister, which are taxed for the weeklie Contribution for the Maintenance of Souldiers,

Most humbly sheweth,
That, notwithstanding their weekly taxe, they have been much charged with the free Quarter of your Highness' Army, while it was at Beamister, as also, in providing of Provision for your Highness and your said Army; Beside the great Losse that the Inhabitants of the said Towne have lost by that late unfortunate Fire, your Petitioners are in continuall Charge in relieving the poorer Sorte, w^{ch} have been burnt [out] of all that ever they had, but especially for the Charge of the said free Quarter, and providing Provision, unless your Highness' Remedy in this Behalfe.

The Premises considered, Wee your Petitioners doe most humbly beseech your Highness to make some Order, that the Charge of the said free Quarter and Provision may be deducted and repayed to your Petitioners out of their own weekly Contribution paid to Colonell Strangeways, and that each Man's weekly Taxe may cease untill the said Charge of free Quarter and Provision be repaid as aforesaid.

And (as in duty bound) wee will dayly pray, &c."

* J. B. Russell's MS.

What success this petition met with is not known. The inhabitants however applied to Parliament for help, and obtained an order for raising £2,000 out of the sequestered estates of George Penne, of Toller Whelme: "In satisfaction of the losses they had sustained during the wars, and the town was rebuilt. But the owners of the houses were not able to build them again in so commodious a manner as before, by reason of the losses they had sustained."

"Die Veneris 25 December, 1646.

An Order for the inhabitants of the towne of Beamister.

The humble petitiōn of the inhabitants of the towne of Beminster in the County of Dorsett, this day sent from the Lords, was recd and it is hearuppon ordered by the Commons assemblyd in Parlyament that the sume of two thousand pounds be raised, with all convenient speed, out of the rents and profits of the sequestred estates of Mr. Georg Penny of Tollar in the County of Dorset, to be imployed from tyme to tyme as it shall arise for the repaire and newe buildinge of the howses of the poore inhabitants of the towne of Beminster which have been burnt and destroyed by the enemye, and for the reliefe of the sayd poore inhabitants in such maner and to such of the sayd p̄rsons as the Committee of the West shall appointt, and that it bee refered to the care of the sayd Committee to rayse and dispose the sayd two thousand pownds accordingly.

H. Elsyng, Cla. Parl : D. Com.

At the Committee of Lds and Cōmons for the safety of the Western Associated Countyes, etc."

It appears that George Penne, *alias* Penny, who was an ardent Royalist and a Roman Catholic, sold some property at Cheddington for £800, and paid it over to the town authorities. In 1651 the inhabitants petitioned for the balance.

Sir Robert Pointz, first cousin to George Penne, had leased Toller Whelme for thirty-one years in 1644, just before it was sequestered. Parliament allowed the validity of the lease when the town petitioned, but ordered the heir Nicholas Pointz, to pay over £100 a year till the whole £2,000 was paid.

At the Restoration in 1662, Penne brought an action against the Minister and authorities at Beaminster to recover his losses, but was unsuccessful. He also appealed to the King for compensation, and was appeased by the grant of a charter to hold a Fair at Toller Down twice a year.

According to Hutchins (1773) three fairs were annually

held at Toller Down: May 29th and 30th, first day for bullocks, sheep and horses; second day for toys. July 2nd, for sheep and lambs. September 11th and 12th, for bullocks, sheep and horses; second day for toys only.

Of late years the fairs were held on May 18th and September 7th, and so continued until quite recent times. But gradually these time-honoured events lost much of their former importance, until in 1905, the "Fall Fair" was dropped altogether; the "Spring Fair" has also ceased, the last being held in May, 1906. Only the ruins of the old fair-house now remain.*

As a further reward in 1687, after the "Bloody Assizes," Penne was given one hundred prisoners.† These men were purchased by their friends, or sold as slaves to the planters of America or the West Indies.

* * * * *

Hutchins says—

"The commissioners for distributing the Parliamentary bounty (if such it may be called) were Richard Brodrepp, Henry Henley, Thomas Gollop, Walter Foy and William Derby, who in obedience to an order of reference from the committee for the safety of the western associated counties dated January 9th, 1646, drew up a certificate of their proceedings, from which it appears that they had relieved about 160 persons, regarding rather the position of the parties than the quantum of their loss, for that divers who had sustained the greatest loss had notwithstanding good estates in land or stock remaining; but there were fifteen sufferers who refused to join in the petition to Parliament, and these were excluded from any assistance. After dividing £1,540 and appropriating £60 for discharging the expenses of the petition, there remained in the hands of the commissioners £400, which the inhabitants wished might be conferred as a stock to their common workhouse to procure materials of hemp and wool for employing their poor, who were both numerous and idle."

The writer has been unable to discover any document dealing with the distribution of the "Parliamentary Bounty"—the town was however rebuilt.

In 1645, just a year after the fire, the Parliamentary army quartered in Beaminster, under command of General Sir Thomas Fairfax. They remained but one night.

* Accidentally burnt, 1903.

† See Chapter IX.

Joshua Sprigg, the historian, who accompanied them says :

“ The Army marched from Dorchester to Beauminster. The Train & most of the Foot quartered on the Top of an Hill : some laid in Beauminster Town, a place of the pittifullest Spectacle that Man can behold, hardly an House left not consumed with Fire, the Town being fired by some of the Enemy in five Places at once when Prince Maurice was there by Reason of a Falling out between the French and Cornish.”

The “ falling out ” may be thus explained. In Prince Maurice’s army there was a number of French brought over to assist the King. He also had many Cornish troops (the county of Cornwall being loyal to Charles) but when the army encamped in Beaminster these two sections began to quarrel, and the Prince realised that with a divided army and hostile inhabitants, he could not hope to hold the town, and therefore burnt and evacuated it.

Another account records that :

“ On Sunday, July 4th, 1645, Fairfax & his Army marched from Dorchester to Beminster, where they rested the Lord’s Day : only the train that was in the rear marched that day up to the van of the Army & thence on Monday to Chard.”

It was on this occasion that Oliver Cromwell made Beaminster his head-quarters.

After the reverse of Charles at the Battle of Naseby on June 14th, 1645, General Fairfax was ordered to raise the siege of Taunton. He was present at the taking of Leicester three days later ; and on June 22nd, with Cromwell as second in command, commenced his march towards the West. So speedy were the movements of the army, that by the 4th of July his head-quarters were at Beaminster. His whole force, with its impedimenta, thus having covered a distance of nearly 150 miles in thirteen days.

Charles II during his flight from Charmouth to Broadwindsor on September 23rd, 1651, may have paid Beaminster a visit. It is known that the fugitive escaped from his pursuers on the road between Bridport and Dorchester by turning down Lee Lane to Bradpole, he then gained the valley of the Brit and rode through Netherbury towards Beaminster. The town was then little more than a collection of blackened, ivy-covered ruins, as the place had been but partially rebuilt since the great fire, which happened just seven years before.

It is stated that "Charles was so struck by the melancholy aspect of the place that he would not halt there as he intended, but proceeded to Broad Windsor—over a high conical hill, called Chartknolle—which was about three miles distant."

After a lapse of only forty years, Beaminster, or the greater part thereof, was again burnt to the ground, this time by an accidental fire, which occurred on Saturday, June 28th, 1684.

The following information was copied by John Banger Russell from the original manuscript, at one time in the possession of Baruch Fox of this town :

A Particular Account of the Loss susteyned by Fire (in dwelling Houses and other Buildings) in Beamister, in the County of Dorsett, which happened there the 28th of June, Anno Dñi. 1684, exactly taken by Able Workmen—

	<i>Lib.</i>	<i>Soli.</i>	<i>Den.</i>		<i>Lib.</i>	<i>Soli.</i>	<i>Den.</i>
George Martin	089	04	08	Barbara Buckland	060	00	00
Andrew & Matthew Cox	080	05	00	Joseph Conway	239	14	00
Henry Hoskins	331	07	08	Thomas Bozey	081	08	08
John Stevens	147	03	04	Robert Hoskins	047	08	00
Edward Stodgill	047	17	04	John Seymour	005	00	00
Mary Mills, Wid.	106	02	00	George Dañett	053	13	00
Richard Stevens	051	11	08	William Stodgill	175	07	08
Charles Mintern	206	17	04	Thomas Dogrill	150	10	06
Edward Stodgill	093	05	04	Arthur Whitemoor	040	10	08
Rendell Crabb	057	01	08	John Rodbard	105	05	02
Mr. William Mills	065	05	04	William Dent	080	00	06
John Richards, ats				The Flesh Shambles	030	00	00
Mason	022	08	08	Mr. James Hallett	030	16	00
Richard Wey	107	06	06	Mr. Henry Sam-			
Joane Newman	041	13	00	ways, Senr.	148	19	00
John Newman, ats				Elizabeth Bagwell,*			
Short	047	17	04	Wid.	263	00	08
Mr. John Russell	084	18	08	Elleanor Batten, Wid.	044	13	00
Mrs. Elizabeth Hos-				John Lock	235	07	00
kins, Wid.	089	00	00	Joan Crabb, Wid.	101	17	04
Julian Painter	058	09	02	William Lack	235	16	08
William Barrett,				Mr. George Keate	117	17	08
Junr.	043	07	04	Ralph Cloud, Junr.	062	01	00
Henry Clarke, Senr.	129	08	08	John Hallett	077	00	00
Philip Martin	245	08	04	Mary Keate, Wid.	271	15	04
Mary Colfox, Wid.	090	00	00	Anne Mills, Wid.	040	13	00
Mr. Ralph Ewens	210	15	00	William Barrett,			
Robert Ford	109	18	08	Senr.	080	00	00
Martha Braine, Wid.	439	03	00	Joan Newman, Wid.	028	08	08
				Robert Bush	041	08	00

* (?) Bedgood.

History of Beamister.

	<i>Lib. Soli. Den.</i>				<i>Lib. Soli. Den.</i>		
Mrs. Katherine Fookes, Wid.	142	06	08	Elianor Grinter, Wid.	071	03	10
Henry Daniell	057	03	00	George Clavell	036	00	00
Robert Hart	020	00	00	Mary Ford	040	00	00
Mr. Richard Cox	057	01	08	Joane Ackerman, Wid.	061	05	00
Ralph Cloud, Senr.	065	16	00	Mrs. Frances Tucker	500	00	00
Robert Meech, Senr.	167	04	02	Mr. William Conway	243	10	08
Mrs. Eliz. Hodder, Wid.	282	01	00	Hephzibah Hunt, Wid.	056	06	00
Mr. Thomas Hitt	159	13	08	Thomas Martin	095	03	04
John Rendle	076	00	00	Mary Rousell, Wid.	165	11	04
George Beere	166	00	00	William Bugler	055	00	06
Margery Stacie, Wid.	154	00	00	The Towne Hall	500	00	00
Total Lib. 9161. Sol. 16. Den. 06.							

A particular Account of the Loss susteyned by the s^d Fire in Beamister above s^d in Goods only.

	<i>Lib. Soli. Den.</i>				<i>Lib. Soli. Den.</i>		
Melchizedek Williams	028	17	11	Henry Clark, Senr.	010	00	00
Andrew Cox	010	00	00	William Lack	100	00	00
Mary Rousell, Wid.	028	16	00	Thomas Serjeant	015	01	09
Ralph Cloud, Junr.	022	07	06	Mrs. Elizabeth Hoskins, Wid.	035	06	08
Elizabeth Bagwell, Wid.	120	00	00	Edward Stodgill	007	10	00
Joseph Strong	60	04	06	Robert Meech, Junr.	004	00	00
Robert Ford	014	17	00	John Newman, at's Short	011	03	00
Mary Ford	005	00	00	George Dañett, Junr.	020	00	00
Julian Painter	005	06	08	George Dañett, Senr.	008	14	00
Joseph Conway	050	00	00	Rendell Crabb	012	08	00
Mary Keat, Wid.	057	00	00	Philip Martin	026	10	00
John Rodbard	007	15	00	Mr. Arthur Symes	065	00	00
Arthur Hood	010	00	00	William Bugler	012	00	00
George Clavell	001	16	00	Mr. Henry Samways, Senr.	140	00	00
Hugh Stickland	005	05	00	Edmund Stodgill	300	00	00
John Cooke	040	12	00	William Barrett, Senr.	070	00	00
Richard Wey	050	00	00	Robert Hoskins	006	05	00
Charles Minterne	200	00	00	Roger Bowering	040	00	00
Robert Polden	025	00	00	John Hallett	077	06	06
William Barrett, Junr.	005	00	00	Joane Newman, Wid.	020	14	07
John Stevens	031	14	10	Richard Stevens	020	00	00
Matthew Cox	012	00	00	Joane Crabb	010	00	00
Ann Mills, Wid.	008	06	06	Thomas Hallett	009	00	00
Charles Studley	011	10	06	Ralph Cloud, Senr.	008	10	00
Henry Serjeant	015	12	00	Philip Dening	194	15	08
Margery Stacie, Wid.	013	02	10	Thomas Bozey	012	12	00
Joane Ackerman, Wid.	001	10	00				
John Abbott	020	00	00				

Disastrous Fires.

125

	<i>Lib.</i>	<i>Soli.</i>	<i>Den.</i>		<i>Lib.</i>	<i>Soli.</i>	<i>Den.</i>
John Hart	002	00	00	Henry Hoskins	120	05	06
Mrs. Katherine Fookes, Wid.	200	00	00	Peter Filden	039	19	04
Mr. Thomas Hitt	025	00	00	Arthur Whitmore	025	00	00
John Richards, ats				John Lock	083	00	00
Mason	010	00	00	Mr. Samuel Clare	300	00	00
Mr. James Hallett	008	00	00	Anne White	010	00	00
Mary Mills, Wid.	012	00	00	Anne Mills, Wid.	050	00	00
Samuel Allen	056	00	00	William Dent	050	00	00
Mary Stodgill	010	00	00	Eliator Grinter, Wid.	002	10	00
Thomas Martin	007	10	00	George Martin	200	00	00
Samuel French	012	00	00	William Gerrard,			
Hephzibah Hunt,				Senr.	040	00	00
Wid.	005	00	00	Barbara Buckland	040	00	00
Thomas Dogrill	006	00	00	Joseph Hoskins	001	00	00
George Pope	020	00	00	Elizabeth Gollop	006	00	00
Charles Strong	015	00	00	Mrs. Elizabeth			
John Wood	050	00	00	Hodder, Wid.	200	00	00
Hugh Suggarr	040	00	00	Mr. William Conway	200	00	00
Charles Hoskins	008	00	00	Elizabeth Gibbs	006	04	00
Robert Bush	002	00	00	Martha Crabb	001	18	00
Joseph Standrick	007	00	00	Daniell Minterne	007	00	00
Hester Collins	001	00	00	William Hoskins	002	10	00
John Minifie	001	16	00	Richard Hart, ats			
Edward Parker	003	11	01	Crouter	001	10	00
John Minterne	004	00	00	Anne Pinney	002	06	00
Thomas Whittle	005	00	00	Mrs. Frances Tucker	200	00	00
Margery Boylen	005	10	00	Christopher Wats	035	00	00
Richard Gollop	004	00	00	Barbara Nossiter	005	00	00
Richard Darnett	016	17	00	Mr. Ralph Ewens	050	00	00
Mary Polden	005	00	00	Henry Brain	009	00	00
Mary Colfox, Wid.	100	00	00	Matthew Canterbury	002	00	00
Joane Crabb	003	00	00	Mr. John Russell	002	00	00
Robert Meech, Senr.	140	00	00	Mary Gillingham	002	00	00
Nicholas Toogood	004	10	00	John Hallett	010	00	00

Total Lib. 4522. Soli. 08. Den. 04.

Total of Houses	}	Added	09161	16	06
Total of Goods			04522	08	04

Fecit 13684 04 10 The whole Loss

Unfortunately the Parish Registers together with the "Tenants' Book of Presentments" were burnt in this fire.

Once more, to rebuild the town Parliament was again appealed to for assistance. After a lengthy enquiry an official Brief or Parliamentary Broadside was issued, ordering that moneys should be collected for the purpose from every part of England.

Facing this page is a photograph of one of the original documents which has recently been placed in the Reading Room of the Beaminster Institute.

Written on the back of this Brief is :

“ Giveing in the þirsh of pendomer towards the Releefe of the withing named suffouers the sum o 3s. od.

Thomas Taylor, Rector.

Thomas Leaves, Church warden.

John Savage, Coll^r—pray Bring this to the next visitision.”

In the church register of Ormsby St. Margaret (Norfolk) mention is made amongst other collections by briefs of “ 3/4½, June 5th, 1685, for a burning at Beminster, co. Dorset.”

In one of the Mere (Wiltshire) Churchwardens' account books is this entry : “ 1686 It^m gathered a Breiffe ffor Bemister and collected the sum of *li*1 *s*6 *d*6 and pd. the same to Ben Beech *li*01 - *s*06 - *d*6.”

A Register Book of the Parish of Preshute (Wilts) records under Briefs—“ 1685. Given to Beamister in the County of Dorset 00 - 05 - 00.”

No record of the total amount of money collected for the relief of the townspeople in response to the many appeals is forthcoming, but the sum subscribed must have been considerable.

A house still standing in the Fore-place bears a memorial of the disaster. On a stone built into the gable-end is this inscription :

This Towne
Burnt in 1684
Howse rebuilt
in 1687. W.L.

Phoenix like, once more Beaminster arose from its ashes ; this time with wider streets and substantial stone houses, some few of which yet remain, and contrast favourably with the buildings of a later date.

* * * * *

There may yet be seen in the town a few “ blind windows ” in the old houses, relics of those dark days when windows were taxed. Richard Symes paid in 1759 £2 5s. od. window tax.



WE, *CHARLES*, by the Grace of God, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, etc. To all Bishops, Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, Monks, Priests, Vicars, Curates, and all other Spiritual Persons; And also to all Justices of the Peace, Mayors, Sheriffs, Justices of the Peace, Churchwardens, Chappellwardens, Householders, Collectors for the Poor, and their Overseers: And also to all Officers of Cities, Boroughs, and Towns Corporate; and to all other Our Officers, Ministers, and Subjects, whatsoever they be, as well within Liberties as without, to whom these presents shall come, Greeting.

Whereas We are credibly given to understand by a Certificate made at the General Quarter-Sessions of the Peace holden at *Stamford* and for Our County of *Derby*, on the Fifth day of *July* last past, under the Hand of the Right Reverend Father in God *Robert* Lord Bishop of *Gloucester*; and also under the Hands of Our Trusty and Well-beloved Sir *Henry* Baker, Knight, *Esquire*, Deputy Custos of Our Said Session, *Thomas* Strangway, *Thomas* Freke, *William* Strevens, *Robert* Napier, *George* Rice, *Esquires*, and several others Justices of the Peace for Our said County of *Derby*: That upon *Saturday* the Twenty Eighth day of *June* last past about the hour of Four in the afternoon, there happen'd a most sudden and dreadful Fire in the Town of *Beaminster*, in Our said County; which in the space of Three hours, (notwithstanding all the endeavours that could be used for the quenching thereof) burnt down and Consumed the Dwelling Houses of *George* Mayne, *John* Stevens, *Richard* Stevens, *Lazarus* Bagnall, *Robert* Stables, *Corn*, *Hay*, *Wood*, and most part of their Goods and Household stuff; the Loss sustained thereby amounting to Thirteen Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Four Pounds, and upwards, as appeared to Our said Justices of the Peace, upon the Oaths of *William* Borsford, and *John* Benson, *Messieurs*, *Thomas* Wipley, and *John* Clarke, *Carpenters*, *able*, *honest*, and industrious; Workmen, and Inhabitants of the said Town; by reason whereof the said poor Sufferers who heretofore were helpful and Charitable to the relief and necessities of others, are now so Impoverished and distressed, that they are not able to support themselves and Families, unless assisted by the Charitable Benevolence of Well-disposed Christians. And therefore have most humbly besought Us, that we would be Graciously pleased to take into consideration these present lamentable and distressed conditions, and to Grant unto them Our gracious Letters Patents, under Our Great Seal of *England*, to License and Authorize them to ask, and receive the Alms and charitable benevolence of all Our loving Subjects, within Our Kingdom of *England*, and Town of *Berwick* upon *Tweed*; unto which their humble request we have Condescended, and do recommend their sad and deplorable condition to the Pious and Charitable Thoughts and Considerations of Our said loving Subjects, as a very fit object for their liberal Alms and charitable contributions.

Know ye therefore, That of Our Especial Grace and Princely Compassion, We have given and granted, and by these Our Letters Patents under Our Great Seal of *England*, do Give and Grant unto the said poor Sufferers the Inhabitants of *Beaminster*, and to their Deputy and Deputies, the Bearer and Bearers hereof, (Authorized and Deputed in that behalf, as afterwards in these presents is appointed) full Power, License and Authority, to ask, gather, receive, and take the Alms and charitable Benevolence of all Our loving Subjects, not only Householders, but also Servants, Strangers, and others, in all and every the Counties, Cities, Towns, Cinque-ports, Towns Corporate, Universities, Boroughs, Privileged Places, Parishes, Chappellries, Villages, Hamlets, and all other places whate'er within Our Kingdom of *England*, and Town of *Berwick* upon *Tweed*, for and towards the Support and Relief of the said poor Sufferers.

Wherefore We require and Command you and every of you, that at such time and times as the Deputy and Deputies, the Bearer and Bearers hereof, shall come or repair to any your Churches or Chappels, to ask and receive the Alms and Charitable Benevolence of Our said loving Subjects, quietly to permit and suffer them so to do, without any manner your less or contradictions, and you the said Parsons, Vicars, and Curates, upon some Lords day within one Month at the farthest, after that these Our Letters Patents shall be produced, and the true Copies thereof tendered unto you, or the said Churchwardens, or Chappellwardens respectively, shall deliberately and affectionately publish and declare the Tenour of the same unto Our said loving Subjects, and earnestly exhort, persuade, and stir them up, to extend their liberal Contributions towards the said great Losses: And for the better and more effectual Collecting thereof, you the said Churchwardens, Chappellwardens, Collectors for the Poor and their Overseers, respectively, within the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, and the Weekly Bills of Mortality, and in all other Cities, Corporations, Parishes, and Market Towns, are not only to Collect at the Church, but also to go from House to House upon the Week days next following, after the Publication of these presents, to Collect the Alms of Our said loving Subjects, and the Sum and Sums of Money so respectively Collected by virtue of these presents, to enrolle upon these Our Letters Patents, or the said Copies thereof at length and not in Figures; together also with the Names of the Counties, Cities, Towns, Parishes, Universities, and Chappellries respectively, wherein and the time when such Sums were gathered; which enrollements are to be subscribed by the Ministers and your selves, and also to be enter'd into your Books of Accounts for the said Parishes and Chappellries, respectively: And you are also to deliver the said Monies, with all the said Copies and Writings, unto the said Bearer or Bearers hereof, (authorized as herein is appointed) whenever you shall be by them or any of them thereunto required, but to no other Person or Persons whatsoever, whose receiving thereof, together with their or any of their Acquaintance or Acquaintances, shall be your sufficient discharge for so doing: Which said Bearer and Bearers hereof, are hereby made and required, upon receipt of the said Monies, forthwith to pay the same, and deliver all the said Copies unto Our Trusty and Well-beloved *Thomas* Strangway, *William* Strevens, *Richard* Freke, and *John* Strevens, *Esquires*; whom we do hereby constitute and appoint Treasurers and Receivers of all such Monies as shall be Collected by virtue hereof.

And lastly, Our Will and Pleasure is, that no person or persons whatsoever, shall Collect or receive the said Monies of or from the said Churchwardens, Chappellwardens, Collectors for the Poor and their Overseers, or any of them, but such only as shall be appointed and Authorized to do so, by Deputation in writing under the Hand and Seal of the said Treasurers and Receivers, or any Two or more of them, and that they do dispose of the said Monies amongst the said poor Inhabitants proportionably to their several Losses, as they shall find to be Just and Equal: Any Law, Statute, Act, Ordinance, or Provision heretofore made to the contrary hereof in anywise notwithstanding. In witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be hence Patented, and to continue until the Fifth and Twentieth day of *December*, which shall be the year of Our Lord One Thousand Six Hundred Eighty and Five, and no longer. Witness Our self at *Westminster*, the Fifth day of *November*, in the Sixth and Twentieth Year of Our Reign.

GOD SAVE THE KING.

fall.

LONDON, Printed in Little Britain, by J. B. Young, for W. L. BATH, in Pall-mall, PATENTEE for drawing and engraving, to the Great Seal of *England*, all Copies, and have the Privilege, 1784.

Fac-simile of Official Brief ordering the collection of money for rebuilding the town of Beaminster after the fire of 1684.

In 1829 *Reduced Duties* were paid under the Act 4 Geo. IV for every *dwelling house* in England, containing the following number of windows :

Eight, 16s. 6d. ; twelve, £2 4s. 9d. ; sixteen, £3 18s. 0d. ; twenty, £5 12s. 3d. ; twenty-five, £7 14s. 3d. ; thirty, £9 16s. 3d. ; thirty-five, £11 18s. 3d. ; forty, £14 8s. 9d. ; fifty, £17 5s. 0d. ; seventy-five, £23 5s. 0d. ; one hundred, £29 8s. 6d. ; one hundred & fifty, £40 12s. 9d. ; one hundred & eighty, £46 11s. 3d. *per annum*.

Every window that exceeded 12ft. by 4ft. was charged as *two* windows, except those so made before 1785. Windows in shops or warehouses, being parts of dwelling-houses, in the front or fronts, and on the ground or basement story, not exceeding *three*, were exempt.

It was during the reign of William III that the *Window Tax* was imposed, in order to provide for the loss incurred in recoinage the clipped money then in circulation. The operation of recoinage appears to have cost the Government something under three million pounds.

* * * * *

We now pass over a period of nearly a century before finding an account of another serious conflagration.

“ 31st March, 1781—Between the Hours of 4 and 5 in the morning, a Fire broke out in a Back Building belonging to the King’s Arms Inn sit. in the Market Place in the Town of Beam^r. In the course of Three or Four Hours all the Houses on the West Side of the Street leading from the Market Place to the Church (two only excepted) were destroyed. At the same Time, two Houses near the Pound, with the School House, and several Houses near the Alms House, together with all the Houses in Church Street and Schederick Street, otherwise Little Street, and Eight Houses on the South Side of Hogshill Street, besides Stables, and other Buildings, were entirely consumed. The whole number of Houses destroyed amounted to upwards of Fifty. The Greater part of the Goods belonging to the Inhabitants was saved. A Daughter of Mr. Paviott, Master of the Free School was burnt to Death. The whole

Loss is supposed to have amounted to upwards of £8,000, of which about £6,000 were insured. It must nevertheless be acknowledged, that the Houses destroyed, were very bad ones, and y^e Value put upon them by the Owners, was somewhat too great. Those Sufferers whose Property was not insured, were relieved by Contributions raised in the Town of Beaminster & its neighbourhood, and in other parts of the County of Dorset.”*

The “ King’s Arms ” was the principal inn of the town ; it had been in existence for more than a hundred years. In one of the Churchwardens’ Books is the following entry :

“ 1668 Laid out at the Kings armes at our visitation here
Nov. 10th, 15s.”

The fire probably originated either in the stables or “ brew-house ” behind the Inn itself, then in the possession of George Eveleigh.† That part of the building facing the Market-place escaped destruction, and stands to-day one of the most picturesque houses in the centre of the town. The premises are now the property of Messrs. A. & E. Toleman, and are used by the firm as stores and workshops.

The “ pound ” abutted the east end of the church, it was demolished when the churchyard was enlarged in 1840. At that time another pound was enclosed in Clay Lane, at the junction of the Stoke Abbott and Broadwindsor roads, it is now used as a garden. The School House stood at Tower Hill, on the south side of the church.‡

Tradition says the Schoolmaster’s daughter, who lost her life in the fire, entered her father’s house to rescue some wearing apparel, but perished in the attempt. Some thirty years ago a tombstone bearing a record of the tragedy was unearthed in the churchyard, when several Beaminsterians—who took an interest in the past events of the town—caused it to be restored and re-erected.

* J. B. Russell’s MS.

† With the deeds of the property there is a “ Surrender of Thomas Hitt to Mr. George Eveleigh—King’s Arms Inn, 27 May, 1751. All that Cottage being a dwelling house called or known by the name of the King’s Arms Inn, with the Brewhouse, Stables, Garden, Outhouses, and appurtenances thereunto belonging ; situate in the Fore place in Beaminster aforesaid”

‡ See Chapter VI.



BEAMINSTER—FORE PLACE, 1870,
Looking East.



BEAMINSTER—FORE PLACE, 1914.
Looking West.

The stone is inscribed :

Sacred
to y^e remains of y^e
Unfortunate Betty
Daughter of William
& Ann Pavy. Aged 23
Years, who fell a Sacrifice
in y^e Dreadful Conflagration
which Happened in this Town
on Saturday, March y^e 31st, 1781.
This Stone is erected by her
Brother William Pavy
Apothecary in London.

In this fire the writings and other records belonging to the Nonconformists of Beaminster were destroyed.*

In response to a circular letter—a copy of which the writer has failed to trace—"the benevolent contributions in the neighbourhood and the whole county in general (particularly the town of Bridport) alleviated the losses of those who had not the prudence to insure their property. The benefactions amounted to £805 3s. 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d."†

Fortunately a printed statement of the accounts has been preserved and is here reprinted *in extenso*.

BEAMISTER FIRE.

Benefactions Received and Distributed to the Poor Sufferers from March 31st, 1781, the Day on which the Fire happened, to August 31st, 1782, the Day on which the Account was closed.

Benefactions Received by the Treasurer.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
From Beamister	233	3	4	Charmouth	3	8	0
From sundry Persons	28	15	0	White Church and			
Town of Bridport	101	10	6	Chideock	9	4	0
Parish of Corscombe	13	0	0	Rampisham	2	3	6
Wambrook	0	7	0	Wraxal	0	10	6
Halstock	2	5	6	Wooten Fitzpain	10	17	1
East Chelborough				Evershot	3	7	9
and Lucum	0	9	6	Melbury Sampford	5	19	6
Bothenhampton	3	2	0	Melbury Osmond	2	1	10

* See Chapter III.

† 1781, April ye 1st. I gave to the Beamister Subscription for the Relief of the Poor Sufferers by Fire which happened yesterday; 60 Dwelling Houses besides outhouses were burnt, £3 3s. 0d. [Richard Symes].

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Frampton	7	17	6	Studland	0	2	6
Askerswell	1	4	6	By Mr. John Temple-			
Upcerne	1	1	0	man, viz.			
Batcombe	1	1	6	Holy Trinity Town			
Symondsburys	5	0	0	of Dorchester	10	19	5
Hook and Poorton	1	8	0	St. Peter's ditto	7	0	6
Litton Cheney	12	7	6	All Saints ditto	3	11	0
Puncknoll	1	16	0	Puddlehinton	3	0	0
Stoke Abbot	3	16	6	Wool	0	16	0
Chardstock	2	14	1	Ewerne Hartgrove			
Broadwinsor	10	10	0	and Marsh	1	16	6
Loders	6	11	0	By Mr. Robert Swyer,			
Maiden Newton	4	8	6	viz.			
Town of Wimborne				St. Peter's the Town			
Minster	5	5	0	of Shaston	4	2	6
Walditch	0	6	0	Holy Trinity ditto	3	14	8½
Hawk Church	2	10	0	St. James's ditto	2	3	6
Lydlinch	3	12	6	Sutton Waldron	0	4	9
Town of Cerne Abbas	4	12	6	Nether Cerne	1	3	6
Town of Ilminster,				Cattistock	4	4	0
Somerset	5	5	0	Steeple	2	15	0
Mosterton	5	5	6	Puddle Trenthide	2	1	6
Cheddington	1	5	2	Langton Wallis	0	6	6
South Parret	2	18	0	Osmington	1	0	0
Mintern Magna	2	9	0	Wimberne St. Giles	2	4	0
Town of Chard,				Chalden	0	4	0
Somerset	5	5	0	Binghams Melcombe	0	11	6
Town of Crewkerne,				Winterbourne			
Somerset	13	2	0	Steepleton	0	14	6
Froom Vauchurch	0	16	0	By Mr. Simon Pretor,			
Chilcombe	0	15	0	viz.			
Town of Lyme	13	18	0	Sundry Persons, in-			
Winford and West-				cluding Glanvills			
compton	1	8	0	Wooten, £1 1 0	5	5	0
Mapperton	4	4	0	Town of Sherborne,			
Netherbury	11	0	8	including Bishops			
Toller Porcorum and				Caundle, gs.	25	9	0
Poorstock	6	3	4	Yetminster	4	5	0
Burstock	1	11	0	Leigh	1	1	6
Fontmill, including				Chetnole	1	16	6
West Orchard				Bradford Abbas	4	18	6
and Hargrove	2	7	0	Compton	4	11	0
Melbury Abbas	0	15	0	Coombe Keynes	1	1	0
Stower Provost	2	11	9	Town of Melcombe			
Marnhull	1	19	0	Regis	7	7	10
Silton	0	16	0	Winfrith	1	2	2
Compton Abbas	0	7	0	Town of Abbotsbury	0	14	7
By Mr. John Burd,				Moreton	7	1	4
Junr., viz.				Woodsford	1	1	0
The Town of Pool	10	15	11¾	East Lulworth	1	12	6
Litchet	0	10	6	Turner's Puddle	0	3	6
Corf Mullen	0	9	3				

Disastrous Fires.

131

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Aff Puddle, Brians				Bubdown	0	5	0
Puddle, and Pal-				Town of Yeovil,			
lington	0	18	2	Somerset	8	8	0
East Stoke	1	0	4	Hermitage	0	10	6
East Holme	1	1	0	Long Burton	0	13	0
Bradford Peverell	0	10	6	Holnest	0	10	6
Winterbourne Monc-				Buckland Newton	4	1	0
ton	0	8	0	Sturton Caundle	3	9	8
Ower Moinge	0	12	6	By Mr. Thomas			
Langton Herring	0	1	0	Feaver, viz.			
Forthington	2	9	0	From a Person			
Shillingston	0	15	0	unknown	0	5	0
Okeford Fitzpain	0	13	8	Durweston	1	10	0
Winterborne Whit-				Hanley	1	6	7
church	0	13	0	Town of Blandford			
Witchampton	0	5	0	Forum	13	17	0
Turnworth	0	3	2	St. Mary Blandford	1	8	6
Almer and Mapperton	1	8	6	Manston	0	5	6
Hinton St. Mary	1	0	0	Town of Wareham	15	19	6
Mappowder	0	15	6	Dewlish	2	12	6
Pimperne	1	1	0	Haselborough Bryant	1	1	0
Child Okeford	1	5	6	Houghton	0	7	6
Abbey Milton	1	14	0	Winterbourne Stick-			
Stalbridge	5	8	6	land	0	16	6
Weston Buckhorn	0	8	0	Pentridge	0	9	1
Kington Magna	1	1	0				
Fifehead Magdalene	1	3	6				
Froome St. Quintin	4	0	1	Total Received	£805	3	3½
Stockwood	1	2	6				

Distributed to the Poor Sufferers upon Houses.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Robert Hoskins	72	1	10½	To Betty & Molly			
„ Hugh Parker	51	9	3	Conway	30	17	0
„ Benjamin Nossiter	43	2	10½	„ Betty Keech	28	16	6
„ Thomas Ware	37	12	6	„ John Forster &			
„ Christopher Dunn	37	5	1½	H. Serjeant	27	9	6

This money is not paid as they have not yet begun to build.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
George Daw	19	17	0	Ann Johnstone	5	19	3
Thomas Dean	18	2	4½	Mary Cox	4	5	1½
George Vile	16	2	9	Joseph Swaffield	3	19	7
George Dunn	10	2	6	William Chick	7	3	0
Richard Waygood	24	14	6				
Christopher Oklie	10	0	0	Total distributed	£457	1	2½
Ann Bozie	8	0	6	on Houses.			

Distributed to the Poor Sufferers upon Stock in Trade.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Robert Hoskins	16	0	0	To Samuel Conway	5	7	6
„ Benjamin Nossiter	15	13	0	„ William Buglar	2	3	0
„ Betty & Molly Conway	18	15	6	„ Thomas Blackla	5	15	0
„ Daniel Symes	32	5	0	„ Mary Wheadon	4	13	6
„ William Symes	13	8	0	„ Joseph Swaffield	7	3	8
„ Susanna Symes	3	15	6				
„ Robert Buglar	8	16	0	Total dist. on	£133	15	8
				Stock in Trade.			

Distributed to the Poor Sufferers upon Household Goods & Wearing Apparel.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Robert Hoskins	11	1	10	To Joseph Bean	2	4	4
„ Benjamin Nossiter	4	4	0	„ John Gale	2	3	0
„ Benjamin Barret	3	3	6	„ William Fowler	2	18	0
„ William Buglar	3	3	0	„ William Whittle	0	9	0
„ Samuel Conway	10	19	0	„ Thomas Buglar	1	14	0
„ Sarah Meech	1	1	0	„ William Pomeroy	2	6	6
„ Thomas Blackla	3	16	6	„ John Demat	1	10	0
„ Phebe Keech	1	5	0	„ Thomas Marsh	0	9	6
„ James Gale, Senr.	4	0	0	„ Peter Burbidge	1	10	0
„ James Marsh	1	5	0	„ John Burbidge	1	10	0
„ George Dunn	4	0	0	„ Joseph Clare	2	12	6
„ Mary Richards	7	7	6	„ Ann Stodgel	1	1	0
„ Hugh Parker	10	0	0	„ Richard Pomeroy	0	16	6
„ William Pavy	8	0	0	„ William Staple	2	2	0
„ Thomas Dean	1	0	0	„ Robert Buglar	4	6	0
„ Thomas Hoskins	0	10	0	„ Benjamin Gibbs	1	15	0
„ Sarah Nossiter	4	4	0	„ John Day	5	5	0
„ Joel Chubb	9	0	0	„ Charles Cloud	1	16	0
„ James Gale, Junr.	3	0	0	„ Susanna Hide	1	1	0
„ John Jones	1	11	0	„ John Holt	1	11	0
„ Mary Bowell	1	12	0	„ Joseph Hoskins	1	15	0
„ John Horsford	0	19	0	„ Robert Hoskins,			
„ Joan Pomeroy	1	0	0	Junr.	1	1	0
„ Mary Hallet	0	13	0	„ Grace and Eliza-			
„ Ann Buglar	2	0	0	beth Cox	0	7	0
„ Mary Wheadon	1	12	6	„ Charles Hoskins	2	10	0
„ Betty Cox	0	9	6	„ Joseph Mills	1	13	6
„ Robert Elliot	1	16	0	„ Benjamin Swaffield	0	15	1
„ Ann Webber	2	14	0	„ Joseph Swaffield	2	5	0
„ Mary Nossiter	1	13	0	„ Mary Parker	2	4	6
„ Elizabeth Soper	13	0	0				
„ William Dowel	0	12	0				
„ William Larcum	1	2	8				
„ Joseph Meadway	4	13	6				
					£177	19	11

(Total distributed on Household Goods and Wearing Apparel).

Incidental Charges.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Robert Buglar dreadfully burnt	2	2	0	To Eleven Advertise- ments in the Salis- bury and two Sher- borne papers	5	11	6
To James Hoar much hurt by a fall from a House	0	12	0	To George Hallett for writing fair Copies for the Printers	0	5	0
To the common People of the Town for assisting the Sufferers in re- moving their Goods & helping to ex- tinguish the Fire	10	10	0	To three Advers. in the Salisbury & Sherborne papers	2	6	6
To a Company of the Oxfordshire Militia then quartered in the Town for ditto	5	5	0	To W. Oliver for Printing this full State of the Account	3	3	0
To Mr. Joseph Warr for surveying the Ruins and giving Estimates for re- building the Houses	5	5	0				
To William Oliver for Printing the circular Letters	1	7	6	Total Incidental Charges	36	6	6
To Thomas Hoskins for distributing the same	0	4	0	Distributed on Houses	457	1	2½
				Upon Stock in Trade	133	15	8
				Household Goods & Wearing Apparel	177	19	11
					£805	3	3½

The Gentlemen of the Committee jointly with the Poor Sufferers, and in their behalf return their grateful Thanks to their generous Benefactors as well as to all those who have assisted in collecting and remitting the Money.
Richard Symes, Treasurer.

An inquiry into any minute particular, relating to this transaction, will be readily answered by addressing a Letter to the Treasurer.

Once more the houses were rebuilt, this time tiles being used in lieu of thatch in many cases for the roofs. Apparently the inhabitants were powerless to cope with these terrible fires. The large reservoir built beneath the road-way in the Fore-place clearly indicates an inadequate water supply, for prior to its construction water had to be drawn or pumped from private wells. The primitive appliances also of those times did little to check the progress of the flames. Probably a hand squirt or syringe was the only "engine" the town possessed during the two "awful visitations of Divine Providence" in the seventeenth century.

Early in the eighteenth century fire engines of an ap-

proved type were procured. Fortunately one of these manuals—which no doubt played its part in attempting to stay the conflagration of 1781—has survived, and is now in the Beaminster Institute, placed there by Mr. C. Toleman. It is a most interesting relic of eventful days, dating probably from about 1700.* This quaint little engine just 3ft. long and 18ins. wide has a metal nozzle 30ins. in length but no hose, and four small wheels turned out of solid blocks of wood. A pole affixed to each side enabled it to be carried—sometimes upstairs—as in years long past Sedan chairs were conveyed.

When a fire occurred the Agents of the Fire Insurance Companies in the town hired men to protect the property in which the different offices were interested; the houses being indicated by an emblem or name of the fire office in which they were insured. Each “fire-man” wore on his left arm a distinguishing metal badge supplied by the Agent who engaged him, and from whom also orders were received.

Since the extensive fire in 1781 only minor outbreaks have occurred. On May 27th, 1786, four dwelling houses in East street were consumed “they were the Oldest Houses in the Town.”†

In 1844 two thatched houses fronting the main roadway were burnt in the Fore-place. These buildings continued from the eastern end of the Market House to a point near the Red Lion Inn, leaving but a narrow space for the roadway known as “Back of Fore-place.” The houses, which were never rebuilt, were occupied by Thomas Pine, grocer, and John Marden, a linen-draper.

The fire happened on Sunday morning, December 15th, and caused some considerable excitement in the town. This we learn from an entry in the Parish Church Preacher’s Book :

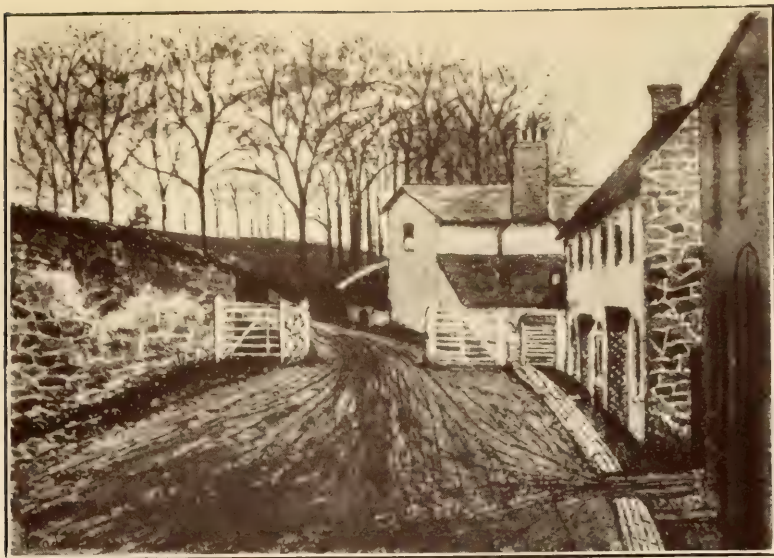
“ 1844, Dec. 15th. Morning—No sermon.
 Afternoon—No service.
 Evening—No service.

Remarks—The Honble. and Revd. S. Hay was to have preached this morning in aid of the fund for Sunday Schools in Beaminster but was interrupted by a cry of *Fire* before the Communion Service commenced.

Another Fire at 6 p.m.”

* An almost identical engine is now in the Museum of Messrs. Merryweather and Sons, it bears date 1735 and originally belonged to Windsor Castle.

† J. B. Russell’s MS.



SOUTH TURNPIKE GATE, BEAMINSTER.

Abolished Dec. 31st, 1880.

(From a water-colour painting by H. Codd).



A BEAMINSTER FIRE ENGINE. *Temp.* 1700.

Two years previously several tenements were reduced to a heap of ruins in East street, a house there bears a tablet inscribed :

Burnt
May 4th, 1842
Rebuilt
June, 1842.
J. M.

The following fires have occurred during recent years :

- 1853. A row of old thatched cottages burnt in St. Mary Well Street.
- 1856. Houses burnt in Hogshill Street, also in Shadrack Street.
- 1867. Three old cottages burnt in North Street.
- 1868. Two cottages burnt on the Stoke road near the Pound.
- 1870. Several thatched cottages standing below the Wesleyan Chapel in Fleet Street were burnt down. On August 31st the same year fire swept away five houses in St. Mary Well Street which were also roofed with thatch.
- 1872. During the autumn of this year fire consumed six old cottages situate in Higher Gerrard's Green, immediately below the Royal Oak Inn.
- 1874. A portion of the Yarn Barton weaving-sheds which stood where the Institute and Public Hall is now built was destroyed by fire ; at the time the premises were used as a tinman's workshop and stables. The picturesque old covered gateway entrance* to the allotment gardens was also then destroyed.

These fires, aided by the scythe of Father Time, have swept away nearly all the timbered and thatched cottages in the olden style from our town. And what have we to-day in the place of them ? Blank walls, or rows of tenements, the architecture of which may best be seen in Higher East street.

* * * * *

The earliest entry in the parish books relating to fire engines is : " 1741, Paid Isaac Cloud for mending the

* Over the gateway once hung the factory bell which summoned the weavers to their looms.

Ingin, 15s. 3d." In 1712, Francis Groze was paid 6s. " for oyling 24 fire pailles."

In 1753 "It was agreed to Buy a New Fire Engine to be Paid for out of the Poore Rate, the Price of w^{ch} to be left to the Judgment of Thomas Strode, Esq., who we Desire to Buy the Same." Dated September 16th, 1753, and signed by twenty-three ratepayers.

At a Vestry meeting, held on November 4th the same year, it was resolved "To Buy one of Newshams & Ragg's Fourth Sise [Engine] Price Forty Four Pounds & 40 Yards of Pipe. Thos. Strode, Esqr., to buy the Same & to Ship it for Bridport.

ACCOUNT.

Fire Engine	£44	2	6
Leather Pipes	£11	12	0
Freight to Bridport	£1	1	0
Harbour dues		1	0
Carriage		10	0
Mr. Eveleidge for Chaines		6	0
Postage ab ^t the Engine		1	6 "

" 1754, May 12th. It was agreed by this Vestry w^{ch} was duly warned for this Purpose that Messrs. James Daniel, Samiel Cox & George Eveleigh do Build a Convenient House to keep the Engines in on the Piece of Ground lately Purchas'd of Mr. Th^s Conway, and that the whole Exspence of the Building be paid out of the Poore Rate and do agree to give Benjamin Hoskins, Cooper, One Pound & One Shilling to keep the Engines cleane & to have them Playd at least Four times & to keep the water belonging to the Towne in its proper Course until next Easter, and to further agree that the Money Collected of the addisonial Exsisman for the Land Tax be Layd out in Removing & Repairing the Town Pump & Repairing the Water Courses that Conveys the Water to the Towne."

Account.

Paid the Mason & Carpenter for Work in Building the Ingin House, £26 : 14 : 4. S. Cox & Geo. Eveleigh were "admitted" to the engine house 21st April, 1756.

1757, April 15th. At an ajournment of the Vestry at the Clark's House we whose Names are hereunto Subscribed do a gree that the present overseers do reinburse the remainder of the Money laid out about the Reservoy made in the Market-place for the use of the Engine in case of Fire.

1759. To Nicholas Jefferys for taking the Old Engine abroad & putting in New Suckers, £0 : 11 : 4.

In 1764 it appears from the following entry that another fire engine was purchased : " In consideration of sume of Ten pounds given by Thomas Strode, Esqr., and likewise a farther sume of Twenty-one pounds given by the Managers of the sun fier office its a greed at this Vestry that Messrs. Samuel & Daniel Cox do forth with purchase a fourth sise fier Engine of Messrs. Newsham and Ragg, with leather pipes, one pole ax and one fier hook. Also its a greed that the said Gentlemen do gett a sufficient quantity of leather Buckets for the use of the said Engin, all which additional Expenses Except the above thirty-one pounds be paid out of the poor's rate of this parish.

Paid Messrs. Coxes part of the Engine as by Bill £20 17 9
paid the Freight & Caridge to & from Weymouth

of the Engine as by Bill £3 2 3"
1785. " Ordered that the Old Fire Engine be sold by Auction on the eight of Sep. next & that the sale thereof be advertised in one of the Sherborne papers. And that the house in which the said Engine is now kept* be employed in keeping Hemp or such other matters as may be useful to the poor in the Workhouse."

In 1824 the "Sun Fire Office" gave one dozen leather buckets and in 1833 subscribed £10 os. od. towards the up-keep of engines. The same year " 84 feet of copper rivetted Pipes at 3/- per foot and 13ft. suction pipe at 5/- per ft. " were purchased of John Mullins & Co., London, and conveyed to Beaminster by road in one of Whitmarsh's waggons.

In 1831 the inhabitants of the town and parish sub-

* The parish Workhouse, East street.

scribed £28 15s. *od.* "to pay Expenses of the New Prison, for the Repair of the Fire Engines and the Town Pump."

In 1833 Mr. Anthony Toleman was appointed to take charge of the several public Fire Engines in the town at the yearly salary of one guinea.

In 1837 the West of England Fire Insurance Company (Exeter) gave one dozen leather buckets for the use of the town in case of fire, and contributed three guineas towards the repair of the engines.

1838. "83 ft. pipe at 4/6 and 14 ft. suction pipe at 4/6" purchased.

In 1842 a committee was appointed at a Vestry meeting "to arrange a plan for raising money to render efficient the Parish Engines & appendages, also for making an allowance to the Constables or other persons for watching the Town at night."

In 1844 a meeting of the inhabitants was held in "the New School Room, East Street, to consider the object of relighting the Town with Gas & for continuing the Gas in the Church for the [Sunday] evening Lecture, and keeping the Fire Engines in an efficient state of repair."

The next year "1 doz. Fire Crooks with handles 20 feet long" were purchased.

In 1860 one of the fire engines was sent to Messrs. Shand & Mason, London, for repairs which cost £20 13s. *od.*, including rail charges £1 11s. 6*d.* and cartage to and from Bridport.

In 1877 the Parish Fire Engine-house was re-roofed, slates being substituted for the old stone tiles which had become defective.

In the building may still be seen the wooden pegs on which once hung the leather fire buckets and horn lanterns, together with massive iron fire hooks. These hooks were mounted on long poles and used for tearing thatch from the roofs of burning houses.

A Beaminster fire engine which bore date 1749 was recently sold by tender and broken up!

On November 10th, 1870, a public meeting was held at the Town Hall for the purpose of forming a Volunteer Fire Brigade, and taking other steps for the preservation from fire of the property in the town and neighbourhood.

A committee of five inhabitants (styled the Fire Brigade Committee) was appointed:

- (1) To obtain from a Vestry Meeting or otherwise the possession and control of the Parish Engine House, Engines and appliances.
- (2) To put and keep the Engine House, Engines, and appliances in repair, and to provide other engines, etc.
- (3) To make rules and regulations for the formation and management of a Volunteer Brigade.
- (4) To solicit from Insurance Companies and the Public generally donations and annual subscriptions.

On November 24th, 1870, at a Vestry meeting of the rate-payers it was resolved "That the custody of the Parish Fire Engine House, Fire Engines and Appliances be entrusted to the Fire Brigade Committee."

Since the advent of the Parish Council the engine-house with its contents has been taken over by that body, and is now under the supervision of a sub-committee of its members. Fire hydrants have been placed in many parts of the town, and a hose-cart obtained; thus with plenty of hose and an abundant supply of water, the town is now well protected.

Fortunately it is not often that a fire breaks out, when it does it is one of the rare events of the year.

Should a messenger arrive from some outlying farm or village, the first thing to be done is to collect the firemen who during the daytime are generally scattered in all directions working at their various trades; if by good fortune one is at home he makes it his business to endeavour to procure a pair of horses to draw our venerable fire engine to the scene of the outbreak. When at length the horses have been requisitioned they are harnessed to the lumbering machine, but before setting out the captain or his substitute overhauls the engine to see if any slight repairs are necessary. When at last the brigade has been got together, and the hose, buckets, and other paraphernalia collected, a start is made with the firemen aboard the engine holding on for dear life, for they together with the driver are in constant peril of being jerked from off their perch.


Not many years ago more haste caused less speed, for on that occasion a wheel came off the engine, and the whole thing capsized long before reaching its destination. This of course caused a long delay, but as time was not much of an object it was decided after temporary repairs to travel more slowly, care being taken not to hurry matters unduly again to the detriment of the whole undertaking. In less than an hour after crossing Beaminster Down the

engine arrived at the fire and commenced to pump all the available water upon buildings that were *not* alight as a precaution.

Although somewhat tardy in getting under weigh we are proud of our old engine, and if only a fire burns long enough for it to arrive on the scene, the time-honoured machine can still be relied upon to render good service.

Chapter V.

MARKET HOUSE. TOWN HALL. FAIR. MARKET CROSS.

T was during the reign of Edward I, A.D. 1284, that William Ewell a prebendary of Sarum, obtained a grant from the King for a Market and a Fair at Beaminster. This was probably one of the first steps towards the constitution of a town.

The following is a translation of the original charter :

Charter Roll 12 Edward I (No. 77), 29.

“ The King to the Archbishops &c., Know ye That we
“ have granted and by this our Charter have con-
“ firmed to our beloved Master William de Ewell and
“ Thomas de Rupton, Canons of the Church of the
“ Blessed Mary of Sarum, that they and their suc-
“ cessors Canons of the same Church for ever may
“ have one Market every week throughout Thursday
“ at their Prebends of Bemenstre in the County of
“ Dorset, and one Fair there every year to last for
“ three days, that is to say, on the eve, and on the day,
“ and on the morrow of the Nativity of the Blessed
“ Virgin Mary, unless that Market and that Fair be
“ to the harm of the neighbouring Markets, and of the
“ neighbouring Fairs.
“ Wherefore, We will and firmly command for Us and
“ our heirs that the aforesaid William and Thomas and
“ their successors for ever have the aforesaid Market
“ and Fair at their Prebends aforesaid, with all liberties
“ and free customs to such manner of Market and Fair
“ pertaining, Unless & as is aforesaid.

For Master
William de
Ewell and
Thomas de
Rupton.

" These being Witnesses :
 " the Venerable Father R. Bishop of Bath and Wells,
 " W. Bishop of Norwich,
 " Thomas, Bishop of St. Davids, and
 " S. Bishop of Waterford,
 " Thomas de Clare, John de Vescy, Robert de Tybotot,
 " Ralph de Hengham, Walter de Wymburne.
 " John de Monte Alto, Geoffrey de Pycheford, and
 " others.
 " Given by our hand at Baladenthlyn, the Thirteenth
 " Day of June." [A.D. 1284].

At this period the market would be held in the streets, stalls being set up for the sale of meat, butter, eggs and various articles of local manufacture. From each stallholder a toll was demanded, and the money thus collected helped to defray the town expenses.

In the centre of the town once stood a handsome Market House, built on freestone pillars ; it was erected during the last year of James the First's reign, 1625.

Gilbert Adams, a mercer of Beaminster, gave by his Will dated February 20th, 1626, "unto the Markett Howse the summe of Five pounds to be employed in the Building of the same when it shall be ended and finished."

Probably a Town Hall was built at an earlier date, for we learn from J. B. Russell's MS. that " The Sessions of the Peace were formerly kept—as late as the reign of Eliz.—in this Town, in a Hall, situate in the Fore-place, which was built with handsome arched Pillars. This Hall was burnt a great number of years ago,* & one Part of it was turned into a Market House, being the West side thereof & fronting the King's Arms. The Shambles were made on the North Side towards the Street & on the West side ; the South Part was entirely disused. The Market House was a very shabby Building, being on the Top patched up with Boards, and thatched, & for a long Time the Arches were walled up ; but certain People being of late very solicitous for the Beauty of the Town, have pulled it down."

Perchance over the building hung a bell, for in the churchwardens' accounts for the year 1765, is the following entry : " paid 6*d.* to ye Crier, giving Notice, the Market Bell will

* See Chapter IV.

ring for Prayer." At this date the bells had been removed from the church tower to be recast.

The object of the "market bell" was to give notice of the opening and closing of the market. In former days it was a punishable offence to sell anything before the ringing of the bell in the morning, or after it had rung to announce the closing of the market in the afternoon.

No doubt, after the great fire of 1684, the Town Hall—in which the Quarter Sessions were held during the first seven years of Charles the First's reign—and the Market House were restored in a very careless and inferior manner, so much so, that the buildings gradually became a complete ruin, and were cleared away about the end of the eighteenth century.

Originally Sunday* was a universal market day; it was the custom in Beaminster until comparatively recent times. This we know from the following entry in one of the Congregational Chapel books:

"Sep. 3, 1798. To the Scandal of the Town, and to the shame of the pious Souls residing in it—the Butchers had held a Public Market, on the Lord's Day, in the Market House for the sale of Meat time immemorial. (One of them, John Keech a grey headed Sinner, boasted before the Magistrates that he had kept the Market on Sundays, without interruption, for more than 50 years).

Mr. R. Hine—a zealous Member of the Church—and the Minister† determined to suppress it, having the Law of God, and the laws of the Country on their side.

Sir Wm. Oglander, a Justice of the Peace, residing one half of the year at Parnham, near Beaminster, had, in the spring, at the instance of the Minister, issued a Public Proclamation for its suppression; but on his departure to his other seat in the Isle of Wight, it immediately recommenced.

After taking a variety of prudent steps for several Months, and reasoning the Case with the Men, both in public and private, they as the last resource, cited some of the more obstinate before the Magistrates, at their Monthly Meeting, this day. Tho' the Fact in law, of 'exposure of Meat to Sale' was proved, yet, as the other Fact of 'It's being sold,' was not, a difficult matter of proof in many cases; especially if there be a Connivance between the Butchers and the Buyers.

An instance occurred here. One of the Butchers exposed a Piece of Meat, *which he had sold the day before*. He laid it on the Balk as for sale (hoping to draw the Prosecutors into a false Oath). The Justices, Dr. Sherivé of Bridport, and Mr. Drew, of Wootton, near Charmouth, who evidently leaned on the side of the Delinquents, acquitted them of all penalty; *the letter of the law* being, in that instance, in their favour;

* A "Sunday's Toll" was collected in Bridport in 1786.

† Rev. John Rogers.

at the same time, they commended the conduct of the Prosecutors, and acknowledged that 'they deserved the Thanks of the whole Town, for what they had done.'

The Butchers engaged to desist on the Lord's day : and so the Business ended. Tho' the two Friends had the Commendation of the Magistrates, they experienced much obloquy from others for their zeal, and from some, from whom better things might have been expected. But they rest content with the Purity of their Motives, and in being the honoured Instruments, in the Hand of Providence, of removing (for ever it is to be hoped) such a public impious, and Heaven-daring Nuisance."

About the year 1780 another building arose on the site of the old market house. The north and south walls of this low unceiled building each contained five Ham-stone arches in which butchers' stalls were set. The arches on the south side were however walled up many years before the building was demolished in 1886.

In a parish book is this entry : " 24th Augst. 1783. We, the Overseers do order Mr. Edward Wade to put the Town pump in Repair, and remove it to and place it against the New Market House Wall, and employ a plumber to add as much pipe as may be wanting, and a Carpenter to new timber it. And we do also order the said Edward Wade to also remove the Stocks from the place where they now stand and place them as near the Market House Wall as may be"

In 1818,* or thereabouts, a room was built over the market house, and a dwelling-house and shop added to the western end of the building. The long bare room, termed the " Town Hall "† was approached from the roadway on the south side by wooden stairs. It was lit by three windows on either side and had a narrow gallery at the west end. The whole building, devoid of all architectural beauty, measured approximately 46 feet long and 63 feet wide.

About the year 1850 the lessee of the property obtained a licence for the sale of beer and cider in a part of the dwelling-house, which assumed the title of " Market House Inn."

An old inhabitant‡ who died at the age of 89, furnished

* August 20th, 1818. " Agreed to let the Shop and rooms adjoining the Market House from Sept. 1st, 1818, at £12 pr. year, but not the Pew in the Church." [Extract from Mr. Warr's Journal].

† The weather-vane which was placed on the town-hall by the writer's great-grandfather is still preserved.

‡ John Marsh, who died December 30th, 1903.



BEAMINSTER. SOUTH SIDE OF MARKET HOUSE.

Looking West. 1870.



BEAMINSTER MARKET HOUSE AND TOWN HALL.

Demolished 1886.

the writer with many reminiscences of his childhood days. He could well remember when the stocks were used, and as a boy often gazed at men locked in their wooden grip.

It is to be regretted that such an interesting link with the past should have been ruthlessly destroyed. By the old stocks stood the town pump, which remained until the removal of the market-house in 1886.

Possibly the Pillory was erected near the stocks, when in their original position; but where the Ducking-stool* dipped the scolding wives of our forefathers is unknown.

Scolding women in days of yore, were regarded as a public nuisance. "For which offence a 'common scold' may be indicted, and if convicted shall be sentenced to be placed in a certain engine of correction called the trebucket, castigatory or cucking-stool, which, in the Saxon language, is said to signify the scolding-school, though now it is frequently corrupted into *ducking-stool*, because the residue of the judgment is, that when she is so placed therein she shall be plunged into the water for her punishment."

Fosbrooke's *Encyclopædia of Antiquities* describes a ducking-stool: A post was fixed in a pond, upon the post was placed a transverse beam, turning on a swivel, with a chair at the end of it. In this the scolding woman was placed, and the end turned to the pond and let down into the water.

On 7th March, 1826, the then Bishop of Sarum for "a competent sum of money" granted to Anne Bridge of Langdon, John Perkins of Henley, and George Salter of Coombe Farm (the Trustees of the Will of Richard Bridge deceased, the former Lessee), a Lease of "the Lordship Manor and Farm of Langdon and the Hundred of Beaminster in the County of Dorset," with the buildings, lands, &c., thereto belonging for the lives of John Perkins Bridge, Samuel Symes Cox and Charles Perkins at the yearly rent of £30 18s. 8d., and two quarters of good clean sweet wheat and subject to the further yearly rent of £27 os. 6d., "being the amount of the land tax charged upon the said farm at Langdon and on the tolls of a Fair at Beaminster aforesaid lately redeemed by the said Lord Bishop."

The Market House and Flesh Shambles in the Fore-place,

* See Chapter XV.

and the Fairs and Markets of Beaminster and the tolls thereof, then formed part of the Manor of Langdon, and were treated as included in the lease, although not specially mentioned therein, except as regards the Land tax as before mentioned.

On 6th April, 1826, the Bridge Trustees subleased the Market House, Flesh Shambles and premises in the Fore-place, and the Fairs and Market of Beaminster and the tolls thereof (all part of or belonging to the aforesaid Manor of Langdon) to John Warr for the same lives as mentioned in the original lease, subject to the yearly rent of 1s. and £2 os. 6d. redeemed Land tax. The interest under the sublease afterwards passed to John Warr the son, then to his widow and then to John Palmer Dowdeswell who underlet the premises to H. P. Pulman of the Netherbury Brewery, and afterwards to Job Legg of the Old Brewery, Bridport. The two last named relet to Samuel Poole, who for many years occupied the Market House Inn and collected the Market and Fair tolls.

On the death, 1st August, 1869, of the Right Rev. Walter Kerr Hamilton, Bishop of Salisbury, the Manor of Langdon and its appurtenances became, by virtue of two Acts of Parliament passed in 1840 and 1860, absolutely vested in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England subject only to the before mentioned lease of 7th March, 1826.

In a report made in or about 1857 by Mr. Francis Attwood, Surveyor, to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners upon the Manor and Farm of Langdon in the Parish of Beaminster it is stated as follows :

“ To this Estate belong the Fairs and Markets of Beaminster and the
“ Tolls, Rents, Dues, &c., payable for the same with the Market House,
“ Flesh Shambles and appurtenances.

“ These buildings originally consisted of the Flesh Shambles or Butchers
“ Stalls, a low building and unceiled called the Market House. Mr.
“ Warr added to the West End a dwelling-house and shop and built
“ a room over the Shambles now called the Town Hall approached by
“ a covered staircase outside ; this room has also an inner communi-
“ cation with the sitting room on the first floor of the dwelling-house.

“ The dwelling-house lets per annum for £14 : 0 : 0

“ The Room over the Shambles called the Town Hall for £4 : 10 : 0

“ And the Tolls taken for the standing for sale of all manner of Live
“ Stock and Agricultural produce and Merchandize and Exhibitions or
“ Shows have varied in amount from £7 to £50 per annum the average
“ of the last eight years having been £18 : 18 : 1

“ (For the last year the amount was £11 : 6 : 6).

" The Annual outgoings in respect thereof are

" Parochial Rates amounting to	4 : 2 : 8
" Insurance	0 : 16 : 6
" Expenses attending the Fair	1 : 6 : 3
" Toll Collector's Salary	2 : 0 : 0

£8 : 5 : 5

" The Lord's Rent 1/- and the £2 : 0 : 6 Land Tax are parts of the reserved rent and Land tax charged upon the farm.

" The Market House is rated at £10 gross, £8 net ; and the house and shop at £15 gross, £12 net."

Colonel Samuel Symes Cox of the Manor House, Beaminster, the last of the three lives mentioned in the above lease, died on the 22nd October, 1884, and the Manor of Langdon with its appurtenances thereupon fell in hand to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

The Inn having become a nuisance, and as the whole structure was considered an encumbrance, the inhabitants of the town petitioned for the removal of the premises.

A proclamation was issued, of which the following is a copy :

Notice

A
Public Meeting
Of the Ratepayers of
Beaminster

Will be held in the
National School Room

On Saturday Next, the 8th instant, at 3 p.m.
for the purpose of considering the desirableness
of Memorialising the Ecclesiastical
Commissioners for the Removal of the

Town Hall
Buildings

Beaminster, 6th November, 1884. Alfred Codd, Vicar.

R. D. Hallett. Printer. Beaminster.

For some years prior to this date the Market House had degenerated into a store-room for lumber, and was only used for business purposes on fair days.

By a deed dated 6th August, 1885, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England in consideration of £200 paid them for the purchase of the property therein mentioned—

" Out of a fund which has been raised by public subscription in Beaminster aforesaid for the purpose of effecting such purchase and of "improving the Town of Beaminster " conveyed to John Russell Cox, Thomas Palmer Daniel, John Lane Kitson, Richard Swatridge the Younger and Charles Toleman " First, All that the Market House of " Beaminster aforesaid comprising a beer house, old shambles used as " a wood store and carpenter's shop with Club room over the same now " or late in the occupation of Samuel Poole as tenant of Job Legg of " Bridport, Brewer " (as delineated in a plan drawn on the deed) " with " the ground thereunto adjoining and belonging. And, secondly, the " Franchise of holding a weekly market in the said Town of Beaminster " on Thursday in each week and an annual Fair on the 19th day of " September in every year, and the tolls and dues and other profits " payable in respect of or arising from the said Market and fair. All " which premises are part and parcel of the Lordship or Manor of Langdon " and the Hundred of Beaminster in the County of Dorset."

It was by the said deed declared that the parties to whom the premises were so conveyed should stand seised thereof upon the trusts and for the purposes expressed in the articles thereafter contained and of the most important of which the following is a summary.

(1) The management of the property and income thereof to be vested in a Committee to be called " The Market Place Improvement Committee."

(3) The Committee to consist of the Vicar and Churchwardens and six elected members, the first six (elected at a meeting of subscribers to the fund) being James Andrews, Bank Manager, William Andress, Cooper, Charles Hann, Builder, John Lane Kitson, Gentleman, George Squire, Innkeeper, and Richard Swatridge the Elder, Cornfactor.

(5) The buildings then standing on the property to be taken down and removed as soon as practicable after possession could be obtained, and the site to be cleared and materials sold.

(6) The Trustees by direction of the Committee to have power to mortgage the tolls and premises and apply any money so raised towards the purchase of the above and other adjoining property or for such other public purposes as the Committee might determine.

(7) The Committee to have power to let the tolls for not exceeding seven years or appoint collectors.

(8) The net income arising from the tolls and premises to be applied in discharge of any mortgage and (subject thereto) " in and for such public uses and purposes connected with the town of Beaminster, as the Committee shall from time to time think fit."

The buildings comprised in this deed of Conveyance were removed early in 1886, the materials thereof having been sold by auction by Samuel Cox on the 5th November, 1885,* subject to a condition that they should be taken down and removed between the 28th December and the 28th February next following.

During 1886 and the early part of 1887 three more

* Sold to Messrs. C. & A. Hann (Builders) for the sum of £40.

purchases were made of premises in the middle of the Fore-place or Market-place, and the same were conveyed to the same Trustees and upon the same trusts as the market house and premises comprised in the before mentioned deed, *viz.* (a) from Mrs. Matilda Toleman for £10 the site of a shed or flesh shambles formerly John Hearn's and then lately taken down and removed; (b) from the Trustees of the Will of James Hare Jolliffe, deceased, for £30 the sites of two dwelling-houses which had been erected by John Coltman and Anna Maria his wife (one on the site of a dwelling-house called "Capons Folly," which had been destroyed by fire); and (c) from James Daniel Guy and Tom Willmott Guy for £25 a shed or Flesh shambles and land thereto belonging formerly to Thomas Phelps Guy and afterwards Daniel Guy. The last mentioned shed, which stood in front of the shop now of Giles Frampton, was removed about Lady-day, 1887.

The amount raised by subscription for effecting all the foregoing purchases was about £200, to which was added £40 being proceeds of sale of the buildings. The balance required was borrowed from the Bank and repaid out of the tolls prior to 1892.

By an order of the Charity Commissioners dated 25th February, 1896, the parties to whom the property had been conveyed as above were removed from being Trustees thereof, and the property was vested in the Parish Council of Beaminster who were thereby appointed to be the Trustees for the administration of the Charity, and were also substituted for and were to have and exercise all the rights and powers vested in the "Market Place Improvement Committee" by the above mentioned Indenture of the 6th August, 1885.

With regard to the sale of cattle and sheep at the annual Fair on 19th September the holding thereof in a field near the town appears to date from 1844. Up to that time the cattle were exposed for sale in the main street, and some iron rings to which they used to be tied, still exist in a wall near the White Hart hotel. The sheep offered for sale (the number of which was insignificant compared with those at recent fairs) were penned in North street.

In 1844, with a view to increasing the sheep fair and also relieving the traffic through the streets, an arrangement was entered into between the lessees of the tolls, Baruck Fox (the owner of the field presently mentioned) and John

Purchase Frampton (a local builder) for holding the horse, cattle and sheep fair in a field adjoining the Bridport Road, called Hams, which Mr. Fox agreed to lend for the purpose, J. P. Frampton undertaking the management of such fair and to provide pens, rails, etc., in return for which he was to receive all tolls for sheep, while the lessee of the tolls was to continue to take the tolls for the horses and cattle sold in the fair field as well as for pigs, vegetables, etc., sold in the Market-place and streets and for all stalls and shows erected therein. The fair continued to be held at Hams every year until about 1870 when it was removed to a field on the Dorchester (Whitcombe) Road, lent for the purpose by Mr. Peter Cox, or his tenant, where it was held for some twenty years or so.

In 1893 an Association was formed by some leading agriculturalists and townsmen with the object of improving the fair. They rented for the purpose a field on the Tunnel Road in which the fair has been held ever since, and gave prizes for the best pens of sheep, etc. The Association was successful in attracting a much greater number of sheep than had ever been seen at Beaminster before, but unfortunately it got into debt and only continued for one year. The fair, however, keeps up well and annually several thousand Dorset Horn and Down sheep are penned. In addition to sheep and lambs, some hundred head of cattle are usually offered for sale by public auction, also pigs and a limited number of horses. The practice of holding auction sales in the fair field began about 1875 and has now almost entirely displaced the old method of private bargaining.

For the last twenty years or more Messrs. Morey & Sons, auctioneers, have held a sale of cattle in or near the town twice a year or oftener, exclusive of the September Fair. In 1896 they advertised one of these sales as "Beaminster Spring Fair," and the same is now regularly held on the second Tuesday in May, in the field in which the September Fair is held, but no tolls are collected thereat.

John Banger Russell mentions: "1786, October 9th. A sale of cattle to the great Detriment of Bridport Fair. The Inhabitants of that Town lately obtained an Act of Parliament to build a new Market-house and Sessions Hall and to pave their Streets. In order to obtain money wherewith to pay the Interest of the several Sums they are empowered to borrow, the Commissioners named in the Act are authorized not only to increase the Tolls paid by the

Butchers for their Stalls, to assess a Rate on the Houses in the Town, and to collect a Sunday's Toll, but also to collect a Toll from all persons and Cattle coming to their Fair. The Consequence whereof is, that many Farmers and others living in the Neighbourhood of the Town are dissatisfied, and in Order to avoid the Hardship of contributing towards embellishing the Town of Bridport, have agreed to leave that Fair, and to have a Sale for their Cattle at Beaminster or elsewhere."

For some years this cattle sale continued, for in the *Universal British Directory*, of 1792, it is stated "Of late years there have been two public sales, for cattle, cheese, &c., on the 4th of April and 9th of October."

* * * * *

Although shorn of much of its ancient glory the "pleasure fair" still lingers, linking the present with the past. It is one of those mediæval institutions recalling bygone days, which for many centuries supplied a great social need, and provided an annual merrymaking to relieve the monotony of the year. Originally instituted for three days the "pleasure fair" at one time continued for a week. The bells in the tower rang out merry peals, uproarious carousals went on from day to day, and the town was given over to all kinds of revelry.

A hundred years or more ago such amusements as Badger Baiting, Cock Fighting, Cudgel Playing, and Single Stick constituted the fun of the fair. Cocks were set to fight in the public houses; badgers were chained to posts and slowly harassed to death by dogs in the Fore-place, and cudgel playing took place on a stage erected for the purpose near the Market House.

Such notices as the following were posted about the town :

"Notice is hereby given—That there will be a Main of Cocks fought at — Inn on —"

"Cudgel Playing:* To be played for at Beaminster Fair the 20th and 21st instant, Five Guineas. That man that breaks most heads and saves his own, will be entitled to the sum of Two Guineas each day, and the second best half a guinea.

N.B. Good encouragement to gamesters, who are required to mount the stage each day at two o'clock.

If any disputes arise to be determined by the majority of subscribers then present."

* "September ye 13th, 1781. I gave to the Subscription towards the Cudgill playing 2/6." [Extract from an account book of Richard Symes, now in the possession of Miss F. O. Cox.]

It is recorded that "Richard Hine* through bringing the matter before Sir William Oglander, a liberal well-disposed magistrate, was the means of putting an end to the badger fighting which was carried on in the fore-place" about the beginning of the last century.

In 1835 badger baiting was made illegal as demoralising and unworthy of a civilized people. Gradually more modern and refined pleasures took the place of these brutal sports, riots, and wild orgies.†

Times have changed since the Ballad singers recited the misdeeds of some local murderous wretch; since the days when Puppet shows delighted the yokel and his sweetheart with the tragedy of "Maria Martin or the murder in the Red Barn"; since the days when "peep shows" with their vivid pictures of battle scenes of infantry charging with fixed bayonets and led by officers on prancing chargers. Such appealed strongly to the rustic who could neither read nor write.

Gone too is the Waxwork exhibition with its showman in top hat and cut-away coat, 'tis but a memory his description of "Daniel in the den of lions," "Mary Queen of Scots," "Napoleon in his coffin," "Mr. and Mrs. Manning," and other notorious characters.

Time was when yellow caravans passed in long procession into the town and formed up in the market-place, and on the morning of the fair great painted canvasses were unfurled in front of the shows. These amazing pictures delighted the children and caused wonderment amongst the rustics from all the country-side. Towards night, as the fun of the fair waxed more and more uproarious, the Fore-place became as light as day with flaring naphtha lamps suspended from the shows and booths.

The "fun of the fair" has now vastly changed; cinematograph entertainments have taken the place of peep-shows, and steam roundabouts lit by dazzling electric lights have succeeded the primitive whirligig of the writer's early days. Then the little wooden horses were propelled by boys whose remuneration consisted of an occasional gratuitous ride.

"Fairings" may still be purchased at the standings in the streets, and many glittering presents are bought by village

* Great-grandfather of the writer.

† "1761, September 22nd. Gave towards the Bonfire and Liquor for the Populace." [Extract from Richard Symes' account book.]

swains for their "intended." Bestowing of gifts at fair time appears to be an old custom, for we find that Richard Symes in 1774 entered in his accounts "I gave my Wife a Silk Gown for a Fairing, £5 : 8 : 0."

Mr. W. B. Swatridge* has supplied the following notes :

"My recollection of Beaminster Fair goes back to the early fifties when the fair was looked upon as one of the principal events of the year, and few people living within reasonable distance of the town cared to miss it. For some days before, there was an unusual briskness everywhere, windows were being cleaned and there was a general brightening up. Mr. Locker arrived from Bridgwater with his van full of glass and china, took possession of the piece of ground allotted to him in the Fore-place and laid out his ware to the best advantage. Sometimes on the evening before the fair John Hutchings would arrive from Stoke Abbott with his drum and mouth organ, come as the people used to say 'To beät in the fair.' Early on fair morning the town was astir, there was the sound of feet going to and fro, the hum of voices and the ceaseless tapping of hammers everywhere as the standings were being erected in long rows from east to west through the Fore-place. Mr. Rowe for many years was in evidence with his peep-show and roundabout, and when his van appeared the children would exclaim 'the little hosses be come.' The roundabout was erected near the old town pump, a strong centre upright was fixed in the ground, and round it revolved a huge wheel with a wide flat rim on which the horses and little carriages were placed. When all was ready there were plenty of boys eager to run in, grasp the spokes and send the wheel round as fast as their feet could carry them. Every horse had a bell attached to it which the children rang as they rode and kept up a constant jingle.

"Beside the peep-show there was generally a conjuring and variety show with an outside performance, a boxing show—which in those days was a great attraction—and sometimes a giant or a dwarf, or an enormous pig or some peculiarity of that kind. A few years later there came a show into which the people eagerly crowded to see a 'Zulu Kaffir' eat a rat. The shows usually opened between 12 and 1 o'clock with a general din of drums, organs, cymbals,

* Author of *Rhymes about Beaminster*, 1908.

gongs and other instruments, which must have sounded very much like the band heard in the days of Nebuchadnezzar. By two in the afternoon the crowd had become very dense, there was no open space at all, and the only way to get through the town was to work your way slowly and patiently, squeezing as best you could, step by step through the throng.

"At the corner by the Red Lion there was generally a 'cheap-jack,' who drove a smart business with a Dutch auction. There were also tumblers and acrobats in evidence, and ballad singers singing and selling their songs.

"From the Town Hall and Swan Club Room could be heard the sounds of noisy feet dancing to the merry strains of a fiddle and tamboureen. In the evening the town was a blaze of light, and the noise and fun were kept up until a late hour.

"One amusement for the children during the day was the squeaking and struggling of the pigs opposite the Red Lion, as they were being shifted from one cart to another."

Conspicuous at the annual fair were the long lines of Dorset cheese, piled up for sale on the pavement in the market-place. Now alas "vinny cheese" making is almost an extinct industry. The price quoted for Dorset blue cheese at the fair in 1875 was 16s. to 21s. per cwt !

MARKET CROSS.

Of the many handsome crosses ruthlessly destroyed in Dorset one stood in the Market-place of Beaminster. As far as is known, no description of it exists save in J. B. Russell's MS., where he says: "In the middle of the Town near the Shambles there was a handsome Cross, adorned with Carved work with a high ascent of Steps, which some time ago was removed. The place whereon it stood still has the Privilege of being exempt from the Tolls & Customs of the Market, underneath there is a Reservoir of Water, which will perhaps preserve the remembrance of it."

Although this stately monument escaped the hand of the "restorer" it unhappily fell a prey to the destroying effects of time and weather; and having become very ruinous the remains were taken away about the year 1750. Possibly the Ham stone socket which originally carried a

massive shaft is still embedded in the roadway and now utilised as a cover for the water tank beneath.

At what period the Cross was erected is not known, but no doubt it cast its shade in mediæval times over the Market-place, perhaps ages before any Market-house was built.

In the year 1643 an Ordinance was passed by Parliament whereby it was required—

“ That all monuments of Superstition or Idolatry should be removed and abolished. That all Crucifixes and Crosses, in or upon all Churches, Chappels Churchyards *or in any open place* . . . should before the 1st of November, 1643, be taken away and defaced by and at the expense of the Churchwardens . . . under a penalty of 40s. to the use of the poor of the Parish Provided that this Ordinance or anything therein contained shall not extend to any image, picture, or coat of armes in glass, Stone, or otherwise in any church, chappel *or public place* set up or graven only for a monument of any king, prince, or nobleman, or other dead person which hath not been commonly reputed or taken for a saint.”

Unfortunately the churchwardens' accounts for 1643 have either been lost or destroyed, so that we are unable to ascertain if any part of the Beaminster Market Cross was “ taken away and defaced ” at the expense of the parish. Probably it was not a “ monument of Superstition or Idolatry,” and from that cause escaped destruction in the time of Cromwell, only however to suffer from utter neglect, and finally to be removed as a useless obstacle in a utilitarian age.

During the fourteenth century a large number of crosses were erected in “ open places ”; these were often beautifully sculptured and highly ornamental structures. From the steps, upon which the crosses were usually surmounted, a worthy Friar sent out from some neighbouring Abbey, proclaimed the Word of God to those who stood around, for in days of yore open air preaching was not merely popular but perfectly respectable.

Beneath the market cross public notices were announced, and near by on market days much business was transacted. The cross amid the busy throng always reminded those who bought and sold of a religion which teaches honesty and fair dealing among men.

Near the site of the old Beaminster Market Cross has been erected the “ Robinson Memorial.” This massive building is of Ham-hill and local stone, square in plan with

an arch on either side, and a square central shaft—which supports the roof—surmounted by a pinnacle. From the buttressed piers at each angle also spring pinnacles. The roof is of oak covered with old Ham stone tiles. The flooring, formed of slabs of Keinton stone, is octagonal in shape, raised two steps above the roadway. The height of the structure from base to top of central pinnacle is over 20 feet, and the paved basement 16 feet in width. The pinnacles are of Portland stone and contrast in a marked manner with the rest of the stonework; they once adorned Christ's Hospital in London, and were secured by Mr. Robinson when that building was demolished. The design of the Monument is similar to many old covered market crosses which still survive, and somewhat resembles the "High Cross"—though less ornate—which until 1829 graced the town of Bridgwater.

On the north side of the shaft is inscribed "In Memory of Elizabeth Julia Robinson of Parnham," and on the south side "This Memorial erected by Vincent Joseph Robinson, C.I.E., 1906."


The memorial, built by Messrs. C. & A. Hann, and presented to the town by Mr. Robinson, was formally handed over to the Parish Council on April 9th, 1906, by the donor, in the presence of a large and representative gathering of townspeople assembled in the Market-place.

In excavating for the foundation of the structure pieces of burnt wood and scorched stones were found, fragments no doubt of the Market House destroyed by the fire of 1684.

Chapter VI.

CHARITIES.

TUCKER'S FREE SCHOOL.

T cannot be said that Beaminster, in comparison with other towns, is particularly rich in charities. Nevertheless we are indebted to Frances Tucker, Sir John Strode, William Hillary, Gilbert Adams, Thomas Keate, Francis Champion *alias* Clark, and Peter Meech for liberal bequests. In order of merit undoubtedly the foremost is Tucker's Charity, known of old as the "Free School."

"Mrs. Frances Tucker, to give her the title by which, though she died a spinster, she was known in her own time, is still remembered at Beaminster owing to her bequest of land to Beaminster School. Her father, William Tucker,* was a prosperous mercer of the town, her mother Honor, daughter of John Hood of Mosterton, Yeoman, being William's second wife. At her father's death in 1654, Frances, his only child, then aged five or six years, became heiress of all his property, which probably represented an income of some £300 a year. Between the time of her mother's death in 1664, and the year 1684, she lived for some years either at Blandford or at the house of her kinsman Samuel Hood, rector of Hardington, Somerset. In the latter year she returned to her own house at Beaminster, only a few months before it was destroyed in the fire of 28th June, 1684. She died at Dorchester the following January.

The accounts of her executors, filed with some proceedings in Chancery from which most of the foregoing particulars are taken, also contain a statement of funeral expenses, which seems sufficiently curious to be reproduced. 'Mrs.' Tucker's will indicates a desire that her funeral should be

* Gave by his Will, dated 8th November, 1654: "For the use of poore tradesmen in Beaminster £40."

no ordinary function. Suits of mourning were offered to relatives to ensure their attendance, a gift of a ring of the value of ten shillings to each minister present was also calculated to enhance the importance of the occasion, and two hundred 'good bookes' were to be distributed among the general public.

In accordance with her wish she was buried in Beaminster Church with all due ceremony, as the following accounts show, though perhaps the 'good bookes' were forgotten.

	£ : s. : d.
Funeral rings	21 : 2 : 0
Funeral gloves	23 : 5 : 0
Wine Sider & Beere	4 : 10 : 0
For ringing the great bell at Dorchester when she died	0 : 6 : 8
Item for a coach to carry her from Dorchester to Beaminster	0 : 15 : 0
Item for the coach horses and servants	0 : 15 : 0
Expended on the road upon the company w ^{ch} attended her	1 : 0 : 0
Item for breaking the ground in the church at Beaminster	0 : 6 : 8
For a lined coffin and gilt hinges	3 : 10 : 0
Item for a suit of buriall linning	46s.
For the use of a velvett Pall to cover the corps	30s.
Item for two yards of black cloth to cover the pulpitt	32s.
Item to Mr. Squibb the minister of Beaminster	21s. 6d.
Item paid for her escucheons	£4
Item for forty dozın of Cakes	40s.
Item for provisions att the funerall	40s.
Item for hatt bands & scarfes	38s.
Item to servants w ^{ch} attended at the funerall	20s.
Item for makeing the grave & ringing the Bell att Beaminster	10s.
Item for a mourning Suite for Samuëll Hood & another Suite for Elizabeth his wife	£14
One other mourning suite for Mr. Tremor Hood	£7
One other Ditto to Mrs. Whittle her sister	£7
Paid by virtue of a warrant under the hand & seale of William Strode, Esquire, one of the Justices of the Peace for the County of Dorst for her being buried in Linning	£5."

[Extract from *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, June, 1906].

THE WILL OF FRANCES TUCKER.

In the name of God, Amen.

I Frances Tucker of Beamister in the county of Dorsett being weake of Body but in pfect minde & memory doe make this my last Will and Testam^t in forme and manner following, that is to say—

Iñp. I give my soule to God and my body to the Earth to bee decently buried in the Pish Church of Beamister afores^d att the discretion of my Executors hereinafter named.

And for that Worldly Estate where wth God hath blessed me I thus dispose of it viz^t in forme and mañer followeing that is to say—Imprimis I doe hereby give and devise to Richard Brodrepp of Map^ton esquire John Newbrough of Netherbury esquire both of the County of Dorsett and to John Hearne Bachelor of Divinity of Exeter Colledge in Oxford and John Goulding of Bridport in the County of Dorsett gent. and to such other pson or psons as shall by them bee successively chosen as is hereafter in my will appoynted (whome I make and constitute my Executo^{rs} in trust) all my ffreehold Lands and Ffarme lieing and being in the pish of Maperton and Beamister in the County of Dors^t aforesaid for ever in trust only to bee by them disposed and settled according to this my last will & testam^t and for the uses and purposes hereinafter mençoned and to noe other that is to say for the raising of money to pay all my just debts excepting one debt of five hundred pounds w^{ch} I have charged on my Prebend hold lands of the mano^r of Beamister and for the dischargeing all my funerall expences and for the paieing all the charges in executing this Trust and Saveing themselves harmlesse and indemnified and for the paieing all Legacies and bequests w^{ch} I shall in this my last Will nominate appoynt and give. And first I give to my cozin Elizabeth Hood wife of Mr. Samuel Hood clerk one hundred pounds.

Item I give to Mr. John Hearne Fellow of Exeter Colledge in Oxford one hundred pounds.

Item I give Tenn pounds to each of Dr. Sagittary's five children.

Item I give Tenn pounds apiece to Mr. John Parker's two children of Blandford.

And I give to Sarah Bird Twenty pounds.

And to Mr. Thomas Crane Clerke of Beamister I give Fifty pounds.

And to Mrs. Sarah Lydford I give Fiftie pounds.

And as for my funerall expences my will is that all my relaçons of my name in Exeter and Lyme my sister Whittle Mr. Tremor Hood and his wife and Mr. Greenway thelder and Mr. Samuel Hood and his wife shall have mourninge appèll each of them a suite if they are p̄sent att my funerall other wise not.

And I give Two hundred good Bookes w^{ch} I shall nominate to my executo^{rs} to be distributed att my funerall.

And to all those ministers that shall be p̄sent I give Rings of Tenn shillings a piece value.

Item I give to Mr. [blank in original] Smith, Clerke, Twenty pounds.

And I give to Mary Web five pounds.

And to Phillip Lea of London Five pounds.

Item I give Tenn pounds to each of the three children of Mr. Jerome Turner, Clerke, Dec^d viz^t To Jerome Jane and Mary.

And I give to William Conways daughter of Beamister Twenty pounds and after my Debts Legacyes and funerall expences are discharged and my Trustees from tyme to tyme saved harmelesse and indemnified Then my mind and will is that my said Trustees successively shall stand seized of the said Lands and Ffarme in Maperton and Beamister aforesaid to the seväll uses intents and purposes hereafter menconed.

That is to say As for that parte of my ffarme called North Maperton by estimacon one hundred pounds p añum or thereabouts I appoynt it to be divided into fower equal partes and to be thus disposed and settled viz^t one fowerth parte of the said Lands I give and graunt to Dr. Thomas Sprat of London and his heirs for ever uppon condiçon that hee or they pay out of it or for it before they are vested in it Two hundred pounds towards the discharge of his mother's debts, another fourth parte of the same lands I give and graunt to John Greenway the son of Samuell Greenway the younger of Crewkerne in the county of Soñsett deceased and his heyres of his body on condiçon that hee or they pay out of it or for it before they are vested in it Two hundred pounds to my Executo^r in Trust and if the said John Greenway shall die wth out issue then my will is that the said porçon of Lands shall retourne and bee in the power of my said Executo^r to dispose of as I shall herein after appoynt.

Another fowerth pte of the said Lands I give and grant to William Tucker dureing his naturall life only and after his decease my will is that my Exe^r shall settle it on the heyres of the said William Tucker or the next of Kinn to him for ever.

Another fowerth parte of the said Lands I give and graunt to my cosen Kids children of London and their heyres for ever uppon condiçon that they pay out of it or for it before they are vested in it the sūme of two hundred pounds to my Exe^r in Trust. And as for the other parte of my Ffarme called South Mañton by estimacon ninety pounds p a um or thereabouts my Will is that it shall be disposed of and settled as followeth, that is to say—

Impr: for the maintenaunce of a Schoolemaster (sucessively to be chosen by my Exe^r or the major pte of them) I give twenty pounds p añum for ever w^{ch} Schoolemaster shall have twentie of the poorest Boyes of the pish of Beamister aforesaid comitted to his charge and shall bee bound to take care of their manners, To Catechise them, to teach them to read to write, and, in some competent measure to cast an account.

Item My Will is that Thirty pounds p añum bee for ever ymployed by my Ex^r for the bindeing out Apprentice to some honest calling three or more of the said Boyes yearly as farr as the money will reach whereof one at least if not two shall be eñy yeare sent to sea when they are fitted for it and all the Boyes before menconed to bee successively appoynted and chosen by my said Exe^r.

And my Will further is that if the aforesaid schoolemaster shall be negligent lewd or debauched (w^{ch} God forbidd) then my said Exe^r shall have full power to deprive him absolutely of his place ymployment and stipend and to sett and appoynt another in his roome by such eleçcon as is before menconed.

And I doe hereby desire and empower my said Exe^r to visit the said schoole when they see cause and to take care that all things relating to it bee managed and ordered soberly and piously in the feare of God

for the better advantage of the aforesaid poore children according to the true intent and meaneing of this my Will and Donation.

Item I further give and grant out of my said Lands in South Maſton thirty pounds p^añum to Susanna Hood the wife of Arthur Hood of Bea-mister to bee paid dureing her naturall life and noe longer in recompence of the service shee has donne me and in full satisfaccon and discharge of sixteen pounds p^añum w^{ch} I formerly settled uppon her by Lease or Deed w^{ch} Lease I appoynt to be cancelled and deli^uided upp into the hands of my Exe^{rs} ymediately after my decease. And my will is that the said thirty pound p^añum shall be quarterly paid in equall por^{ti}ons by my Exe^{rs} into the hands of the s^d Susanna Hood only or to her order only and to none elce w^t soever or if it shall happen to bee paid to any other p^{er}son or to any other order then such paym^t shall bee absolutely void & null to all intents and purposes w^t soever. And I appoynt that the first tyme of paym^t shall begin att the next Rent Day w^{ch} shall happen after my decease and that the said thirty pounds p^añum shall bee quarterly paid her during her naturall life free from all manner of Dedu^{cti}ons w^t soever and after the decease of the said Susanna Hood my will is that soe much of my Lands by yearly value as the aforesaid Annuity of thirty pounds was supposed to rise out of and not the annuity itselfe free from charge shall be thus disposed of viz^t I give one third parte of the said Lands for the benefitt of the aforesaid schoole for ever for the bindeing out one or more Boyes app^{re}ntice unlesse only in such a yeare wherein a new Exc^t or Trustee shall bee chosen and then it shall bee paid to him according to my inten^{ti}on herein after declared to that purpose. And I give the two remaineing thirds of the said Lands to my cousin Elizabeth Hood the wife of Mr. Samuel Hood, Cl^{er}ke, dureing her naturall life if she happen to Survive or out live her husband and not otherwise, and after for such pious uses as I shall appoint to my Exo^{rs}. And I further give to my Exe^{rs} or Trustees and to each of them se^{ve}rally out of my sd lands as an acknowledgem^t of their care in Executeing of the trust tenn pounds to be paid them att their first entrance on it wth full power to them and their successors uppon the decease or failure of any one of their number by majority or voices to chuse or appoynt another to succeed in his roome w^{ch} I order and desire may bee donne wth all convenient speed at most wth in one moneth after the decease or failure of the former and hee that is soe chosen shall have the same power to all intents and purposes as if I had first nominated him in this my will and shall likewise receive tenn pounds for his owne use att his first entrance on this trust and I doe appoynt that hee and they shall be vested in the aforesaid estate as Councell shall advice. And whereas I have before reserved to my Exers in trust the remainder of that fowerth parte of my Lands of North Maſton w^{ch} I gave to John Greenway if hee die wth out issue my will is that in case of failure of such issue that por^{ti}on of land shall be settled on the eldest sonne of Robert Strode or his heyres for ever they paieing the two hundred pounds above charged on the said land. And whereas I have above alsoe reserved fower hundred pounds out of my lands of North Maſton my will is that it shall bee employed with the rest money to bee raised out of my Lands towards the paymt of my debts and Legacies soe they may bee the sooner discharged and the said Lands freed from all burdens. And my will is that where I have charged any money on my Land that the said sume or sumes of money bee first paid or good security taken for it before

my Exers settle the said Land on the p̃son or p̃sons to whome tis given. And lastly wt soever reall or p̃sonall estate of mine is hereby not disposed of in this my will and testamt I give to Mr. John Hearne one of my above named trustees to dispose of the same as I shall appoynt him eyther by word of mouth or by a note or schedule given under my hand to that purpose. And I doe hereby revoke and make void all former and other wills by me for̃mly made and doe declare this to be my last will and testamt. In wittenesse whereof I have here unto putt my hand and seale this eight day of December in the Thirty fowerth yeare of the Reign of o' Soʋaigne Lord King Charles the Second of England &c Anno Domi one thousand six hundred eighty & two.

Ffrances Tucker.

Signed sealed published and declared to bee the last will and testament of Mrs. Frances Tucker wth the words. Mr. Tremor Hood and his wife and Mr. Greenway the elder and the words or for it and for ever and not otherwise and the word fower and stipend interlined before the signeing and publishing thereof in the p̃sence of Elizabeth Sagittary Frederick Sagittary John Parker Margaret Isaack X her marke.

Codicill.

Mr. Burrell 20*li*.—Dr. Franland of Windsor 20—

Mr. Wind 10*li*.—Mr. Samson 10*li*.—Mr. Churchill 10—

Mr. Damner 10—Mr. Price 10—Mr. Griffith of London 10—

Mr. Price of Windsor 10—Mr. Dowen* 5*li*.—Mr. Rowe† 5—

To Susanna Hood I give my greate Kittle a skillett and brass pott.

To Susanna Hood I give the furniture of my chamber for her life and after to my cosen Samuell Hoods daughter.

To my sister Whittles daughter I give the Peuter and Brasse and furniture of my parlour except the Essey chaire and looking glasse them I give to my cousen Mary Browne.

To my uncle Tremor Hoods two daughters Hannah Parker and Jean Hood betweene them I give the furniture of my hall and each of them a silver spoone and feather bed.

To Goodey Stasey I give my striped curtaines.

To Mr. William Conways daughters I give my silver Tumbler.

To my cosen Dorothy Clare halfe a dozen of pewter plates and a pewter dish.

To Mr. Henry Samwayes wife of Beamister I give my silver porringer.

To Mr. Daniel Gundreyes wife I give my silver cupp.

The rest of my goods undisposed off I give to Susanna Hood and Charrett.

To Mrs. Clifford To Mrs. Rowe To Mrs. Bird to each of them 10*li*. a piece.

To John Cornish 40*li*. To Robert Cogger in Beamister 5*li*.

Frances Tucker's Will was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 2nd June, 1689.

" The trustees and executors appointed by the testatrix

* ? Downs.

† ? Pinne.

having refused to act, proceedings were taken in Chancery and, after considerable expense and delay, Samuel Hood, clerk, and four others, were, by the decree of the Court, dated 12th November 3 James II, appointed to prove the Will of testatrix, and act as Trustees thereof, three of whom accordingly took out letters of administration, with the Will annexed, on the 28th June, 1689.*

A Commission was granted to Samuel Hood, Samuel Bridges, and Hugh Brice—June 28th, 1689—to administer to the goods of Frances Tucker late of Beamister, Dorset, deceased, according to the tenor of her Will and Codcill. Richard Brodrepp Esqr., John Newborough Esqr., John Hearne and John Goulding Gent., Exors named in the af^d Will refusing to take on themselves the burden of executing the same.”

It appears that some twenty years elapsed between the death of Frances Tucker and the appointment of a school-master according to the terms of her will, and owing to the indifference of the Trustees fears were aroused lest the endowment be alienated and an action at law was instituted, concerning which the following particulars have been extracted from documents at the Record Office.

Suit in Chancery. Dated 29 Nov., 1703.

“The Attorney General, on behalf of 20 of the poorest boyes of the parish of Beamister, and at the relation of William Milles the younger, Edward Hitt, Thomas Hitt and John Painter gent., four of the principal inhabitants of Beamister, state that Frances Tucker heretofore of Beamister, now deceased, being seized in fee of lands in the Parishes of Beamister and Maperton, a part called North Maperton of the yearly value of £100 and the other part called South Maperton of the yearly value of £90, had by will dated 8 Dec., 1682, given to Richard Brodrepp of Maperton, esquire, John Newborough of Netherbury, esquire, John Hearne, Bachelor of Divinity of Exeter Colledge in Oxford, and John Goulding of Bridport, gent., all her freehold lands in Beamister and Maperton in trust. [Here follow the terms of the will]. And after the death of Frances Tucker the trustees so appointed had refused to act, and Samuel Hood, clerk, had taken the executorship and trust.

* Extract from *Report of the Commissioners (Lord Brougham's Commission) concerning Charities in England and Wales, 1818-1837.*

Newborough and Goulding are now dead and Brodrepp, Hearne, and Samuell Hood and Elizabeth his wife combining with Arthur Hood and Susanna his wife, are charged with having attempted to 'stifle and suppress' the will.

The defendants, Samuell Hood and Elizabeth his wife, in their answer give a copy of the will of Frances Tucker.

They state that the testatrix lived some time in Blandford and came to this defendant's house [at Hardington, Somerset] in 1683 and in 1684 came to her own house in Beamister, where she lived till her house was burned.*

She then removed to Dorchester and remained there till her death at the end of January 1684-5.

The trustees and executors named in the will had refused to act, and in 1685 Thomas, Lord Bishop of Rochester [named in the will as Dr. Thomas Sprat, of London], the said Samuell Hood and his wife and other legatees named in the will had filed a bill in the Court of Chancery against the said trustees and executors to compel them either to prove the will or renounce, when all except Hearne renounced.

On 18th April, 3 James II, the Court of Chancery appointed Anthony Floyer of Wootton Fitzpaine, esquire, Francis Carsewell, D.D., vicar of Bray, Berks, and Andrew Loder of Dorchester, gent, James Tucker of Exeter, merchant, and Giles Morse of Henton St. George, Somerset, gent, with Hearne to be trustees and directed costs to be paid from the trust estate.

But Hearne having been preferred to the rectory of St. Ames, Westminster, petitioned to be discharged from the trust; and the new trustees with the exception of Morse had also refused to act or to pay costs.

Samuel Hood had however been allowed £87 : 12 : 0 towards his expenses in the suit, from the trust estate.

And on 12 November, 3 James II was a further order from the Court of Chancery, that the said Samuell Hood, William Conway of Beamister, Samuel Bridges of East Coker, Somerset, gent, and Hugh Brice of Crewkerne, Somerset, gent, should administer the estate in trust, and further costs of £16 - 7 - 6 were allowed from the same.

And in April last, the said Samuell Hood, Bridges and Brice appointed Mr. William Combe as schoolmaster, who has since instructed the twenty poorest boys in Beamister."

* See Chapter IV.

Tucker's Free School was at first conducted in a part of the Parish Church, known as the "schoolhouse."*

Possibly "Mrs." Frances Tucker endowed a school which had for many years previously assembled in this building. We know that the place had been used for scholastic purposes at an earlier date, from the following entries in the churchwardens' accounts—

- 1651 "Payd to the Joynner for boarding the window att
the west end of ye schoole 0 2s. 6d."
1663 "To Mr. Collent for a planche and a Raile to make
formes for the schoolhouse 0 - 5s - 0."

During the year 1686 a grant of £10 was made to "the schoole master for his incouragement." This we learn from the Minutes of the Standing Committee for the County of Dorset: "16 October, 1686. Uppon the petiçon of the inhabitants of the towne of Beamister for maynetenance of a schoolemaster there it is ordered that the Treasurer of this Countie pay unto such schoolemaster, as the petiçoners shall procure for his incouragement the sume of ten pounds for this insueing yeare out of the impropriate parsonage of Netherbury."

The following ghost story was discovered some years ago at the British Museum by Mr. T. Wainwright, of Barnstaple, and published in the *Bridport News*—

"On Saturday, June 22nd, 1728, John Daniel, a lad about fourteen years of age, appeared about twelve o'clock at noon in the school at Beamister, between three weeks and a month after his burial.

The school of Beamister is kept in the gallery of the parish church, to which there is a distinct entrance from the churchyard. The key of it is every Saturday delivered to the clerk of the parish by some one or other of the schoolboys. On Saturday, June 22nd, the master had as usual dismissed his lads. Twelve of them tarried in the churchyard to play at ball. After a short space, four of them returned into school to search for old pens, and in the church they heard a noise like the sounding of a brass pan, on which they immediately ran to their playfellows and told them of it, and on their concluding that some one was concealed in order to frighten them, they all went into the school to make a discovery who it was, but on search found none. As they were returning to their sport on the stairs that led into the churchyard, they heard in the school a second noise as of a man going in great boots. Terrified at that they ran round the church, and when at the belfry or west door, they heard a third noise like a minister preaching, which was succeeded by another of the congregation singing psalms. Both the

* See page 31.

last continued but a short time. Being again at their play, in a little time one of the lads went into the school for his book, when he saw lying on one of the benches about six feet from him, a coffin. Surprised at this he runs to his playfellows and tells them what he has seen, on which they all returned to the school-door, where five of the twelve saw the apparition of John Daniel sitting at some distance from the coffin, farther in the school. All of them saw the coffin. The conjecture why all did not see the apparition is because the door was so narrow they could not all approach it together. The first who knew it to be the apparition of the deceased was his half-brother, who, on seeing it, cried out 'There sits our John, with just such a coat on as I have' (in the lifetime of the deceased they usually were clothed alike) 'and with a pen in his hand, and a book before him, and a coffin by him. I'll throw a stone at him.' He was dissuaded from it, but did it, and doing it said 'Take it,' on which the apparition immediately disappeared, and left the church in a thick darkness for two or three minutes!

On examination before Colonel Brodrepp, all the boys being between nine and twelve years of age, agreed in the relation and all the circumstances, even to the hinges of the coffin and the description of the coffin agreed to that wherein the deceased was buried. One of the lads that saw the apparition was full twelve years old, and of that age a sober sedate boy, who came to the school after deceased had left it, about a fortnight before he died, ill of the stone, and in his lifetime never had seen him. He, on examination, gave an exact description of the person of the deceased, and took notice of one thing in the apparition which escaped the others, namely a white cloth or rag which was bound round one of its hands. The woman who laid out the corpse in order to its interment deposed on oath that she took such a white cloth from the hand, it being put on it a week or four days before his death, his hand being lame.

The body was found in the fields, at some distance, about a furlong beyond the house, in an obscure place, and taken up and buried without a coroner, on the mother's saying that the lad was subject to fits. But after the apparition it was dug up, and the jury that sat on it brought in their verdict 'Strangled.' They were induced to do so on the oath of two women of good repute, who deposed that two days after the corpse was found they saw it, and discovered round its gullet a black list, and likewise of the joiner, who put it into the coffin, for the shroud, not being orderly put on the corpse, but cut into two pieces, one laid under and the other over it, gave him opportunity of observing it. A surgeon was on the spot with the jury, but could not possibly affirm that there was any dislocation of the neck."

About 1734-5, six years after the foregoing incident—which is said to have been "well authenticated"—the School was transferred from the church to a building standing on the south side of the churchyard.

In the Charity accounts are the following entries—

1735 "April 12 pd. Henry Clark & William Cole for work done about the new School House £6 : 5 : 3."

1737 "2nd Decr. pd. Robert Conway a year & half's
Rent of the School House at Midsummer last
£3 - 3 - 0."

In the year 1746 the Trustees *purchased* the School House and a residence for the Master, of William Vile and Sarah, his wife, and Susannah Samways, for the sum of £45. The copyhold premises were duly surrendered to them on the 24th June, 1746, and described as "All that dwelling-house, situate, lying and being near the churchyard in Beamister aforesaid, together with the out-houses, and buildings, and garden-plot, thereunto belonging, and also a way, path or passage, leading from the churchyard by the front of the said house to the river, containing in breadth six feet, and lying between the said house, Mrs. Saunder's orchard, and the orchard on the west side of the said dwelling-house, all which said dwelling-house and premises are lying within the said manor of Beamister Prima, and part or parcel thereof."

On August 7th, 1746, was paid £46 8s. 6d. "money laid out in ye Purchase of a Schoole House & masons work." In addition to this amount a sum of £30 1s. 8½d. was expended "abt. the new Schoole House," including £4 7s. 4d. "Paid to John Purtey for Helliers Work."

1749, March 10th, "Pd. William Miller for making a new
Wall & Steps to the Schoole House £9 - 19 - 0."

1766 "Paid Levi Tuck for thatching the Schoolhouse
8s. 1d."

On March 31st, 1781, the thatched School-house fell an easy prey to the flames, which at that date swept away so many buildings in the town. A daughter of William Pavy, the school-master, was burnt to death.*

Shortly after this disaster, the school-house was rebuilt and roofed with tiles instead of thatch.

1781 "Nov. 28th. The Receiver is ordered to pay to Joseph Warr the sum of Sixty Pounds in part of his bill for rebuilding the Charity house in Beamister lately consumed by fire."

The following entries also occur—

1782 "May 11th. Joseph Warr in part for rebuilding
School-house £50."

* See Chapter IV.

- 1783 " August 20th. Joseph & Richard Warr ditto, ditto
 £50."
 1784 " April. Richard Warr several bills £50 : 4 : 6."
 1787 " May 15th. Richard Warr about the school house
 £5 : 5 : 0."

The approach to the school-house was by a path through the churchyard.*

In the year 1814 the school premises were sold for the sum of £200, and the Trustees purchased of Samuel Cox, Esq., a dwelling-house, malt-house, and about half-an-acre of ground at Shortmoor for £500. A further sum of about £150 was expended in repairs to the Master's dwelling-house and in converting the malt-house into a school-room to which the boys were transferred.

The purchase money—£500—was paid by instalments out of the surplus income of the charity funds. The Surrender bears date 29th August, 1815, and the Trustees were admitted on the 14th December, 1821, the whole of the purchase money being then paid.

The new premises, as altered, comprised a school-house, capable of accommodating 110 boys, a dwelling-house for the Master, a garden, orchard, and play-ground, the whole containing about three roods of land.

The following extracts are from Tucker's Charity Account Book—

- 1814 " By sale of the Schoolhouse near the church to
 William Gerard Eveleigh £200."
 1814 " Paid J. Warr for repairs at the new school-house
 £150 : 5 : 9."
 1815 " Paid S. Cox, Esq., £250."
 1816 " Paid Mr. Cox in further part of his purchase money
 for the schoolhouse £70."
 1818 " Oct. 19th. Paid B. & T. Fox for Drawing and
 Ingrossing the Surrender of the Premises now
 used as a School, from Mr. Cox £2 : 2 : 0."
 1867 " Messrs. Chambers, Masons, general repairs & new
 slate roof to Master's dwelling-house £60 : 3 : 1."
 1867 " Joseph Boon, Carpenter, general repairs & new
 roof to the Master's dwelling house, etc.
 £48 - 10 - 11."

* * * * *

* " 1813, July 10th. Paid to Mr. Isaac Bugler for the Road through the Church yard to the late School House £2 : 2 : 0." [Entry in Parish Rate Book].

In the Shortmoor School-house—an ivy-covered building with small windows of leaded lights, stone floor, white-washed walls and tiled roof—the poorer boys of Beaminster* continued to receive their education until they were removed to the new Public Elementary School, East street, in 1875.†

The following particulars have been extracted from a *Report of the Commissioners (Lord Brougham's Commission) Concerning Charities in England and Wales*, dated 1837—

“The rent of the farm having considerably increased since the decease of the testatrix, the number of scholars prescribed by her is no longer adhered to; and at the present time [1836] there are on the books of the school the names of 111 boys, 80 of whom regularly attend the school for instruction. The income of the master has been consequently increased, and now amounts to £50 per annum. No application to the trustees is necessary in order to obtain admission into this school: the children [boys] of parents of all religious denominations are received upon presenting themselves to the master.

Reading, writing, and arithmetic, and the Church of England catechism, are taught upon the Madras system.

Books and stationery are supplied to the scholars free of expense, the cost of which to the Charity is about £4 per annum.

Permission is given to the master to take scholars on his own account, but the present master, Richard Ames, who has held the situation three years, has not availed himself of this privilege.

The second object of the charity, *viz.* that which relates to the putting out apprentices, is conducted in the following manner: Persons who are desirous of having their children [boys] apprenticed, cause their names to be entered in a list which is annually laid before the trustees at a meeting held about Christmas (of which public notice is given). The trustees select from this list those whom they consider the most worthy objects, their choice being directed by the situation in life and circumstances of the parents. Two boys are always bound to a master mariner, when so many can be found willing to adopt that trade; but this is not always the case, a general dislike to go to sea prevailing amongst the youths of this district. Where the Will cannot be strictly complied with in this respect its provisions are adhered to as nearly as circumstances will permit; the wishes of the boys and their parents being always consulted both in the selection of the trade and the choice of the master. The trustees are guided in the number of boys apprenticed by the state of the charity funds, the average being from four to five every year, and the premium paid with each £15; one moiety of this sum is paid on the execution of the indentures, and the residue at the expiration of the term.

The third division of this charity, *viz.* the £20 directed by the testatrix to be expended for charitable purposes is annually laid out in the purchase of coals, which are resold to the poor of the parish, (generally on

* Out-of-town boys paid 4d. per week.

† See Chapter XVIII.

every Saturday throughout the year) at a reduced price ; the principal object being to save the poor the charge of carriage, which in this part of the country averages 6*d.* per bushel. The £10 paid to each trustee on his entering upon his office has been, in most cases, expended by him in some improvement to the town.

The estate belonging to this charity is situated at Mapperton Marsh, in the parish of Beaminster, and consists of the following particulars—

		<i>a.</i>	<i>r.</i>	<i>p.</i>
One close, called Broad Road	Pasture	3	: 1	: 11
Yonder part of Forty Acres	Arable	18	: 1	: 15
Higher part of ditto	ditto	13	: 2	: 26
Eleven Acres	ditto	9	: 3	: 31
Eight Acres	ditto	7	: 0	: 2
One close called Hagthorn, with the roads	Pasture	25	: 1	: 4
Hagthorn Mead	Meadow	15	: 1	: 18
Home Mead	ditto	11	: 2	: 4
The farm house, with barn, yard, &c.		0	: 2	: 6
Plot	Pasture	0	: 2	: 11
Elby Mead	Meadow	5	: 1	: 13
Conegar	Pasture	9	: 1	: 34
Rocks	ditto	7	: 3	: 30
Emmet	Arable	10	: 2	: 22
White Plot	Pasture	4	: 0	: 11
Cow Leaze	ditto	13	: 0	: 26
Ram's Moor	ditto	9	: 2	: 11
Ram's Moor Mead	ditto	5	: 2	: 11
Total		171	: 0	: 26

There is a small quantity of timber on the estate fit to cut.

The farm is at present tenanted by Absolom Chick, who holds it from year to year, at the rent of £160 (which is considered the fair value) subject to the usual deductions.

The estate has produced the above sum from the year 1824, prior to which period the income fluctuated very much.

From the year 1799 to December, 1833, the trustees have realized £456 : 6 : 5 from the sale of timber on the estate."

The following interesting memoranda has been extracted from the Charity Account Book, 1707-1872—

"Anno 1707. The accompt of Samuel Hood of Hardington in the County of Somerset, Clerke, Henry Samways of Beamister in the county of Dorset, Gent., William Mills of Beamister afores^d, Gent. and Richard Hoskins of Beamister afores^d, Seargemaker,—Trustees Elected and Constituted for the Management of a Charity given unto the said Parish of Beamister, in and by the last Will and Testament of Mrs. Frances Tucker late of Beamister afores^d, Spinster, Dec^d—containing Rec^{ts} by way of Charge, and

payments, Disbursements and Allowances by way of Discharge."

"7 Jan. 1707-8. Then paid Mr. Harbin the school-master of the s^d Charity School one Quarters Sallary due for teaching the s^d Schoole and ended the 25th Decr. last past (as p^r Rec^t) £5 : 0 : 0."

"Paid John Daniell for boarding Mrs. Susan Hood in part of her Annuity 7s. 6d" [Mrs. Hoods annuity was £16].

"Anno Dom, 1707-8. 2 January Rec^d of Mr. Thomas Hallett, Tenant to the Lands given to the Charity afore^{s^d} a quarters Rent due at Xmas 1707 £16 : 5 : 0."

"Anno 1718 Paid Thomas Braine of Weym^o Mariner, with Daniel Jefferyes bound to him for the sea service for 5 yeares as the Consideration of his Indenture £10."

"Paid for makeing the s^d Indentures and y^e duty to the King and stamps 15s." [This is the first record of an apprenticeship].

"Anno 1719 Paid Joseph Marsh of Corfe Castle, Tayler as the Consideraçon money with John Gillingham a poor Child of the Parish of Beamister bound to him by Indenture untill he shall attain his age of ffour and Twenty Yeares. £5 : 0 : 0."

"Anno 1719 P^d Mr. Hoskins [Red Lion Inn] the Contents of his bill of particulars for meat, drinke, wine, fire, standing of horses &c. on a meeting of the Trustees in Octr. 1718 £2 : 16 : 10."

"Anno 1729 P^d for Carrying Thomas Jones to Goale 8d."

"Anno 1740 p^d 2 men three days each for mending the way 6s. p^d 4 women for pecking of stones [at Marsh Farm] 2s."

In 1743 £137 16s. 7½d. is charged "for Rebuilding the Farm House" [at Mapperton Marsh].

"Anno 1746 pd. 4 women 3 days to pick stones to mend the broad Road 6s."

"Anno 1748 Paid Rich^d Brodrepp Esqre. money due to him for acting as a Trustee in this Charity £10 : 0 : 0."

"1755 Paid the Consideration money for binding out 24 poor Boys this Year £237 : 0 : 0."

"1755 pd. the Consideration money for binding out 3 poor Boys more this year £24 : 0 : 0."

1756 "Paid for binding out 12 poor Boys £100 : 0 : 0."

1756 "p^d M^r Cooke & M^r Fox their Bill of Costs in a Cause in y^e high Court of Chancery in Mich^s Term 1752 by His Maj^{ties} Attorney Gen^l on the Relation

of Severale of the Inhabitants of the parish of Beamister ag^t y^e then Trustees of this Charity for the Direction of the Court of Chancery wth Regard to the application of the moneys then in the hands of the s^d Trustees & by them rec^d out of the s^d Charity Lands, which Suit on the death of George Strode Esqre. one of the s^d Trustees was Staid by the Consent of all the other Trustees & of the s^d principale Inhabitants upon the Trustees engaging to apply the said moneys in binding out apprentices as appears by the foregoing. £18 : 14 : 10."

1756 P^d Mr. Nicholas Sticklands Bill of Cost for y^e s^d Geo. Strode & Lancellot Milles two of the Def^{ts} & Trustees in the above Cause £11 : 9 : 10."

On looking through the Trustees' accounts it appears that no money is charged for binding out apprentices during the years 1743-53.

1767. "To Mr. Wm. Hart transcribing the acc^t 5s."

1781. April 3rd. "At a Meeting of the Trustees of this Charity It was resolved and agreed at the request of the Parish that the sum of Eighty Pounds, Part of the Money in the Receivers hands be advanced towards the relief of the Poor Suffers by a fire which happened this day, [March 31st] in the said parish of Beamister ; A Sufficient Sum (after this Allowance) remaining in the Receiver's hands to answer the purpose of this Charity ; Witness our hands

[Signed] W. Oglander.
Rich^d Symes.
Samuel Cox."

1781. "Farmer Strong one years rent [Marsh Farm] due at Lady-day £100."

1784, February 10th. "Resolved—That the Schoolmaster shall for the future be chosen Yearly at the annual Meeting of the Trustees in November, when He shall return the Names of the Boys then at School prefixing to the Name of each the Number of Years he has been at School & producing the Writing and Account Books for the Inspection of the Trustees.

Resolved also that public Notice shall be given, that the Trustees will at every such annual meeting make out a List of Boys to be given to the Schoolmaster from which He is to fill up the Vacancies that may happen in the School

in the Course of the ensuing Year admitting the Boys in priority as their Names stand in the List, & if any Boy absent Himself from School the Master shall acquaint the Parent thereof & if the said Boy does not return to School within a Fortnight his place shall be fill'd up as on any other Vacancy unless a sufficient Reason for such Absence be given to the Master to be reported by Him to the Trustees at their next Meeting.

Resolved that James Ames is elected Schoolmaster to teach Twenty poor Boys the Catechism, Reading, Writing & Accounts at Twenty Pounds per Year & to be rechosen annually at the November Meeting.

That Boys are not to be admitted till they are between 8 & 10 yrs. of Age & are to be continued no longer than four Years.

[Signed by] W. Oglander.
Tho. Rayne.
Samuel Cox."

Names of the Boys in the Free School—

Robert Studley	}	10 Writers.
Joseph Butcher		
Joseph Rendell		
Rob ^t Conway		
Thomas Hatkins		
Richard Sanders		
Robert Hallet		
Philip Park		
Joel Weaver		
Sam Wilkins.		
Thomas Hann	}	7 Readers.
Joseph Maish		
William Jeffery		
Jacob Wakely		
Jonas Mills		
Sam Slad		
John Clark.		

The Vacancies to be fill'd up from the under List subject to the Rules.

John Gale	Aged 7	[at School.]
John Day	- 7	
Henry Gerrard	- 12	
John White	- 10	
Benjamin Swaffield	- 7	
Richard Bugler	- 8	
John Barfoot	- 11	
W ^m Barrat	- 7	

1784, December 2nd. "James Ames is elected Schoolmaster for one year ending the 5th day of November, 1785, and to be allowed two shillings each for furnishing each boy a Common Prayer book."

In 1783 the "Sum of Fifty one pounds 7 shillings & $\frac{1}{2}d.$ was expended by the Trustees of this Charity in making the New Road through the Cowleaze. [Marsh Farm]. And in Liew thereof all the then roads thro' Hackthorn and the Sheep slight were to be stopt up and disused."

1787. "Paid Crying of Boys to be apprenticed 6d."

1791. "James Ames elected Schoolmaster for one year ending the 5th November, 1792, at the salary of twenty four pounds and also to an Allowance of four pounds a year for providing the Boys in Paper, Pens and Ink."

1795, Jany 20th. "Paid for the Relief of the Poor £40 : 0 : 0."*

1798, Jany 8th. "It is Ordered by Us whose Names are subscribed Trustees of this Charity that Ten pounds be forthwith advanced from this Charity to be employed in laying in a Stock of Wood and Coal to be sold at or under prime Cost to the poor of this parish at such Times in the Week and in such Quantities as shall be agreed on by us with the Concurrence of three or more of the Trustees of Adam's Charity in a Meeting for that purpose and that the same sum be advanced yearly from this Charity for the same purpose. It is further Ordered that Ten pounds be lent from this Charity to the Trustees of Adam's Charity to be repaid without Interest.

[Signed] W. Oglander.
Thos. Cook.
Saml. Cox."

The above entry is in the handwriting of Sir William Oglander.

A sum of £120 was expended on "Building a Magazine for the keeping of Coal & Wood to be sold to the Poor Weekly under Prime Cost" at the Workhouse.

Although grants from the Charity funds, ranging from £10 to £50 a year, were made to the "Magazine Account" it is not recorded that the poor were charged for the fuel distributed. During the years 1861-72 a fixed annual sum of £25 was subscribed to the "Coal Fund."

* See Chapter XXV.

The Schoolmaster was annually paid £2, in later years increased to £4, "for his trouble in examining the Magazine or Wood and Coal Accounts."

1802, November 25th. "Ordered—That four children be annually bound out Apprentices; first such as live with their Parents, and afterwards such as live in the Work-house."

1850. "Subscription towards New Church built near School House £10."

1853, January 1st. "The sum of five pounds directed to be paid to W. Whitelegg per aînn for the assistance of four pupil teachers."

1859, February 7th. "We [the Trustees] direct an assistant to the Schoolmaster to be engaged at a Salary not exceeding £25 and the present system of Monitors to be discontinued."

T. W. Pitcher* was appointed Assistant Master at a salary of £25 a year.

1873, February 11th. "This account was examined settled and allowed, and we order the balance of £68 : 0 : 8 to be invested in the Bridport Savings Bank in our names at interest, for the purpose of meeting the future payments of the premiums that will be due on the expiration of the different indentures of apprenticeship and other outstanding claims if any, and we order that all books, documents, title papers, and writings of and belonging to the said Charity shall be handed over to Mr. Robert Leigh the Clerk to the Governors of the 'Scheme for the management of the Charity on the Foundation of Mrs. Frances Tucker.' "

[Signed] Peter Cox.
Saml. S. Cox.

After paying the outstanding liabilities a sum of £59 3s. 8d. was invested in the Bridport Savings Bank in the names of the Trustees.

* Thomas Walter Pitcher was one of the pupils of a Mr. Sleep who for a few months resided in Beaminster and gave lessons in penmanship. It was customary for him to exhibit specimens of his pupil's handwriting, thus: "This is a specimen of my handwriting *before* I began to take lessons of Mr. Sleep. T. W. Pitcher."

"This is a specimen of my handwriting *after* I had taken lessons of Mr. Sleep. Thomas Walter Pitcher."

MASTERS OF THE SCHOOL.

Date of Appointment. Salary per annum.

1703.	William Combe	April, 1703	£20
1706.	John Harbin		£20
1711.	John Galpine	Midsummer, 1711	£20
1715.	Samuel Hood	Ladyday, 1715	£20
1723.	John Guppy	Michaelmas, 1723	£20
1734.	William Pavy	August 4th, 1734	£20
1784.	James Ames	February 10th, 1784	£20
			increased to £30
1806.	Benjamin Ames	November 5th, 1806	£30
			increased to £50
1832.	Richard Ames	Christmas, 1832	£50
1844.	William Whitelegg	January 21st, 1844	£50
			increased to £55
1855.	John Shapland	Midsummer, 1855	£50
1856.	Samuel Warren	Midsummer, 1856	£50
1857.	Henry Oxer	January, 1857	£50
1868.	Thomas Thomas	May 29th, 1868	£70
			increased to £80

Samuel Hood became Vicar of Butleigh, Somerset, and of Thorncombe, Dorset, and Prebendary of Wells. Died 1777. This gentleman was the father of two distinguished Admirals, Sir Samuel Hood, K.B., and Sir Alexander Hood, K.B.*

In 1734 a Mr. Bernard was paid £3 6s. 6d. "for teaching the school boys from Ladyday to the 21st May following." It also appears that John Martin acted as Schoolmaster from May 6th to August 4th, for which he received £5 os. 0d.

In 1843 William Cox was paid £6 os. 0d. "for keeping school 6 weeks to Decr. 22"—the time intervening of the Masterships of Richard Ames and William Whitelegg.

William Whitelegg became the Incumbent of Threlkeld, Cumberland.

In 1855 a sum of £2 7s. 5d. is charged in the School accounts—"Expenses of the Trustees meeting Mr. Shapland at Axminster."

Thomas Thomas left the town Christmas, 1872, when "Tucker's Free School" as such ceased to be.

* * * * *

In the year 1872 Tucker's School was reorganised under a scheme of the Endowed School Commissioners.

The scheme required that the school should be under

* See Chapter VII.

the management of thirteen persons, *viz.*: eight Representative and five Co-optative Governors.

Of the former, three were to be elected by the Beaminster Parish Vestry, two by the Netherbury Vestry, and three by the Guardians of the Poor of Beaminster Union.

The original Co-optative Governors were: Rev. Alfred Codd (Vicar of Beaminster), the Hon. and Rev. Aubrey Spring Rice (Vicar of Netherbury), Major John Gollop, Peter Cox, William James Daniel and Alfred Hine.

Representative Governors elected by the Beaminster Vestry: Lieut.-Col. Samuel Symes Cox, Edwin Coombs and John Hine.

Representative Governors elected by the Netherbury Vestry: Henry Philip Pulman and William Macey.

Representative Governors elected by the Board of Guardians: Rev. William Edward Crawford Austin-Gourlay (Rector of Stoke Abbas), John Templeman Stevens (Seaborough), and William Pope (Corscombe).

The Representative Governors were elected for five years and the Co-optative Governors for eight years.

The Governors were required to apply the annual sum of £25 from the income of the Trust to "pious uses" as directed by the Will of the Foundress.*

The scheme also provided that £1,000 should be devoted out of the funds of the Charity for the erection of a Boy's Public Elementary School and Master's residence in the town. Lieut.-Col. Cox was elected Chairman of the Governing Body.

In 1875 Charles George Purkis was appointed Head Master and the School re-opened as a "middle class school" on October 1st the same year, with twenty-eight scholars in the old building at Shortmoor.



In 1880, under an amended Scheme, Tucker's School was amalgamated with the old Netherbury Grammar School and both were incorporated under one Foundation, hence-

* This amount is and has been for some years paid to the Beaminster Coal Club.

forth known as the " Beaminster and Netherbury Grammar School."

The Netherbury School having but few pupils was closed, and Edward Ludlam, the then Head Master, retired on a pension of £60 a year.

From the accumulated income of the combined charities £400 was paid towards the cost of enlarging the Public Elementary School in the village of Netherbury, and £600 for building a school at Salway Ash.

Six free Scholarships were established, three for boys from Beaminster, and three for boys of Netherbury, elected from the Elementary Schools.

Under the *old Foundation* Apprentice fees were paid for giving deserving boys a trade, and by the 1872 Scheme, the Governors were still empowered to help boys "in gaining a start in some profession or calling," but by the Scheme of 1880 this was abolished.

In 1882 the old School-house* and premises at Shortmoor were sold and the Beaminster and Netherbury Grammar School transferred to a house in Fleet street, known as " Barton End."

In 1884, on the death of Lieut.-Col. Cox, who had taken great interest in the school's welfare, the Rev. Canon Codd was elected Chairman of the Governors; this post he occupied until 1891, when the Rev. Canon Gildea (Vicar of Netherbury) succeeded.

In 1893 the lease of the premises at Barton End having expired, it was decided as there were but few scholars to close the school for a time "to enable the nursing of income," and Mr. C. G. Purkis resigned his position as Head Master.

In 1894 the Rev. A. A. Leonard was appointed Chairman of the Governing Body on the resignation of Canon Gildea.

In January, 1897, the school which had been closed for four years was re-opened.

Some time previously the present site in Hogshill street was purchased and the old buildings thereon—formerly a Pottery—swept away.

The dwelling-house was enlarged for the Master's residence and a comfortable School-room erected, a sum of £550 having been publicly subscribed to defray the cost.

* Demolished 1883.

Thomas Brown, B.A., was chosen Head Master and a new era commenced.

The same year £150 was contributed as a "Diamond Jubilee Memorial" by the inhabitants of Beaminster towards the building of a Chemical Laboratory and Workshop.

In consideration of this gift the Governors granted an additional scholarship, to be called the "Queen's Scholarship," to a boy attending the Elementary School. In 1901 a most successful Bazaar in aid of the school funds was held in the grounds of the Manor House. The proceeds of the two days' sale amounted to £320.

To the regret of both Governors and pupils Mr. Brown resigned his position as Head Master in March, 1903. He was succeeded by Christopher William Levett Hall, M.A.

After two years' residence Mr. Hall left the town at Midsummer, 1905, when Eustace Arnold How, B.Sc., became the Head Master.

In 1905, under a new Scheme, two Co-öptative Lady Governors were added to the Governing Body. It was also ordered that Girls be admitted to the School as well as Boys, both as day scholars and boarders.

The pupils attending Miss Warr's old established Seminary were transferred to the school, which was now constituted a dual school, under the control of the Head Master, who was empowered to appoint Mistresses to assist in instructing the girls.

The Mistresses, together with the girl-boarders, were placed under the care of Miss Warr at her residence, "Brook House," which was recognised as the School Hostel.

During the year a further appeal was made for donations to defray the cost of additional school buildings which it had been necessary to erect; *viz.* a Girl's School and Class Room, besides the enlargement of the Master's House, for which purpose two adjoining cottages were purchased. The total cost was some £2,200.

Towards this amount about £700 was generously subscribed, including a donation of £300 from Col. Robert Williams, M.P. for West Dorset. Also £50 each from the Rev. Paget L. Bayly (Vicar of Netherbury) and Mr. William Colfox (Bridport), conditional on the founding of a Scholarship for a Netherbury girl.

In consideration of the money thus raised it was decided to maintain two additional Scholarships in the school;

one to be called the "Charlotte Keddle Scholarship" (as a memorial of £150 given by Miss C. E. Keddle), to be competed for by *Girls* who are and have been for not less than three [now two] years in attendance at the Beaminster Public Elementary School; and the other to be competed for by *Girls* attending the Netherbury Elementary School.

The same year a Pupil Teacher Centre was established in connection with the school.

The Dorset County Council has also established an Agricultural Centre at the school, and scholarships are offered annually in order to provide a suitable education for the sons of Dorset agriculturists. A good general education is the primary object, but special attention is paid to elementary science inasmuch as it bears upon agriculture. A qualified Agricultural Instructor has charge of this department, and experiments are carried out both in the laboratory and on plots of land where crops are grown under the latest scientific conditions.

The Governing Body—according to the latest scheme, 1909—now consists of fifteen persons.

Ten Representative Governors to be appointed—Two by the Dorset County Council. Three by the Beaminster Parish Council. Two by the Netherbury Parish Council. Three by the Rural District Council of Beaminster; and Five Co-optative Governors of whom two at least shall be Ladies to be appointed by resolution of the Governors.

The scheme of work is that usual in a Grammar School, with exceptions and additions approved by the Board of Education, the curriculum being adapted more closely to the needs of a rural and agricultural district.

A Recreation Field about six acres in extent was purchased in 1913.

FREE SCHOLARSHIPS AND EXHIBITIONS.

Four Foundation Scholarships for boys, who have been for not less than *two* years in attendance at the Beaminster Public Elementary School, one of which is to be termed the "Queen's Scholarship."

Three for boys who have been for not less than *two* years in attendance at a Public Elementary School in the Parish of Netherbury.

One Scholarship for girls, to be called the "Charlotte

Keddle Scholarship," open to girls who have been for not less than *two* years in attendance at the Beaminster Elementary School.

One for girls who have attended a like period at a Public Elementary School in Netherbury Parish.

Four Agricultural Scholarships are offered annually by the Dorset County Council, each not exceeding the value of £30 *per annum*. These scholarships are tenable at the school for three years, and are open to boys between 12 and 14 years of age.

The Scholarships are as follows: (a) Day Scholarships awarded to candidates who live within five miles of the school; the value of these are not less than £5 or more than £15 *per annum*. (b) Boarding Scholarships awarded to candidates other than those mentioned in paragraph (a), the value of these are £30 a year.

The Governors of the School are also empowered to award Exhibitions tenable at any University, University College, or Training College, for boys or girls intending to enter the teaching profession, or other like Institution of higher—including professional or technical—instruction.

The Annual Prize Distribution at the close of the summer term takes place at the Public Hall.

In December, 1908, appeared the first issue of the School Magazine, a bright little publication entitled *The Netherminstrian*.

At Midsummer, 1909, Mr. How tendered his resignation and left the town in September, having been appointed Head Master of Drax School, Yorkshire. Richard Clark Legge, B.Sc., London, succeeded, coming to Beaminster from Caldy Grange Grammar School, West Kirby.

In 1912 the Governors further improved the school premises by the addition of a wing to the Master's Residence, at a cost of some £800, towards which the Dorset County Council assisted to the extent of £400, the remainder of the money being locally subscribed.

The buildings are now fully adequate to the work of the school, and in addition to class-rooms, etc., include Laboratory, Workshop, Rifle Range; and a Boarding House admirably suited to the comfort and convenience of the Head Master, the resident staff and about twenty-five boarders.

An old oil painting presented to the Governors by Mrs. Mary Cox hangs in the School-room. It was dis-

covered some years ago at the Manor House, and is reputed to be a portrait of Frances Tucker.

Having passed through many vicissitudes the School—for whose welfare the Governors have in times past had periods of great anxiety—is now established on a firmer and more popular basis than ever before. Its brilliant progress is undoubtedly mainly due to Canon Gildea, late of Netherbury, and to the untiring labours of the late Rev. A. A. Leonard, who, for many years championed the cause of education in Beaminster.

The present Head Master, Mr. R. C. Legge, is doing good work for the school in which he takes the keenest interest.

For centuries past old endowed Grammar Schools have done the greater part of the work of education in England. Before any “education question” had been invented, before politicians began to intrude into the class-room, the local grammar schools were turning out sound men of business and canny farmers, by the despised means of old classical drill. Modern developments, doubtless for the greatest good of the greatest number, have changed all that.

The Board of Education which now controls the “Beaminster and Netherbury Grammar School” is no longer content with the ways of our forefathers. It demands a wider curriculum in which the claims of science and modern languages shall be recognised. It insists that buildings shall be well lighted and ventilated, and of ample space. Of late it has even begun to demand that the Masters and their Assistants shall be paid not much less than skilled artisans. That all these requirements are just and reasonable no one whose opinion carries weight will be found to deny, but they fall hardly on many a local grammar school. While the Board of Education continually demands more and more expensive reforms, the value of the school endowments has been growing steadily less and less. Agricultural land, of which as a rule the estates are composed, has become less remunerative at a time when education has become more and more expensive. Many of the old grammar schools at the present time can barely make both ends meet. The obvious resource is an appeal to the County Council. This involves in the first place, the placing of the school under County Council direction, which though it may be a guarantee of efficiency is likely to involve



FRANCES TUCKER, 1648-1685

Foundress of Tucker's School

loss of individuality. But even when this course is adopted the school is often not out of its difficulties, for the amount which the Council has to spend on Secondary education is limited. Such has been the case in Beaminster. Time after time appeals for financial help have been made, and most generously have the friends of the School responded. More than £2,000 have been subscribed since the days when Tucker's School became linked with the sixteenth century Grammar School of Netherbury.*

Much might yet be done to extend the usefulness of the Foundation, and in these times, when the position of small endowed schools is so difficult, it is to be hoped that ere long a benefactor following the worthy example of Frances Tucker will add another endowment to the Beaminster and Netherbury Grammar School, which is doing such splendid work not only for the boys and girls of the immediate neighbourhood, but for the whole county of Dorset. One thing however is certain, if the School acts up to its motto, *Duce et Auspice Deo*—God our Leader and Guide—its success is assured.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY.

Description.	Extent or Amount. <i>a. r. p.</i>			Tenant, Person Liable, or person in whose Name invested.		Gross Yearly Income.		
						£	s.	d.
Real Estate.								
Cottages, formerly old Workhouse, Nether- bury, and plot ad- joining	..	2	0	2	Various Tenants	..	21	15 6
Broadenham Farm, Netherbury (Copyhold)	..	54	0	30	F. C. Cook, yearly	..	98	0 0
Marsh Farm, Beaminster	..	167	2	0	B. L. Cox, yearly	..	135	0 0
Allotment Gardens, Netherbury	..	5	1	4	Various Tenants	..	12	5 0
School premises and Master's Residence, in- cluding site of adjoining cottages, purchased April, 1904	..	—	—	—	In hand	—	—	—
Personal Estate	£	s.	d.	Official Trustees of				
Consols	..	107	3	11	Charitable Funds	Accumulating		

* Founded by Mrs. Deanys Churchill in 1564.

The old school-bell now hangs in the Hall of the Beaminster and Netherbury Grammar School; it was presented by the late Mrs. Anthony Taylor.

" GILBERT ADAMS " WORKHOUSE.

Hutchins says : " Gilbert Adams of Beminster, mercer, gave by will dated Feb. 20th, 1626, the sum of £40 for the building of a house for the poor of Beminster, and for the maintenance of the same house £20, also to the poor of Beminster £200 to be bestowed and employed as the executors should think fit and most convenient. With these sums a house was purchased for the habitation of the poor, to which was added a small estate at Allen's Loscombe, in the parish of Poorstock, by way of endowment. A select number of poor only was maintained in this house."

COPY OF THE WILL OF GILBERT ADAMS.*

" In the Name of God Amen. I, Gilbert Adams of Beamister in the County of Dorset, Mercer, being sick and weak of Body, but of perfect Memory, and Understanding (praised be Almighty God) and considering with myself of the Uncertainty and Fraylety of Man's Life, do therefore make this my last Will and Testament in Wryting as followeth—

Imprimus—I commend my Soule into the Handes of Almighty God who gave the same hoping that through the Meritte of Jesus Christ my only Saviour which taketh away the Sinnes of the Worlde, and through Faith in his Meritte I also shall receive and attaine unto perfect Salvation ; my Body I committ unto Christian Burial, and touching my temporall Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless mee, I limitt and dispose thereof as ensueth—

Namely I give unto the Parish Church of Beamister Ten Pounds.

Item. I give unto the Minister of the same Church Forty Shillings.

Item. I give unto the Parish Clarke Twenty Shillings.

Item. I give unto the Poore of the Parish of Beamister aforesaid the sum of Two Hundred Pounds to be bestowed and imployed as myne Executors hereafter named shall in their discretions thinke fitt and most convenient.

Item. I give unto the Bedman† Twenty Shillings.

Item. I give to the Ringers Forty Shillings.

Item. I give unto Mary Hoskins, the Wife of John Hoskins, Vintner‡ Three score pounds.

Item. I give unto Oliver Hoskins their Sonne Twenty Pounds.

Item. I give unto Margery Derby, the Wife of Samuel Derby, and unto Dorothy Rendell the wife of Robert Rendell the younger the sume of Twenty Pounds apeece to remayne in the Handes and Custodyes of myne Executors and to be put forth and imployed as a Stock for the best Maintenance and preferment of them and their Children.

Item. I give unto Elizabeth Meech Twenty Pounds.

Item. I give unto William Foorde the Elder Twenty pounds.

Item, I give unto Lancelott Foorde Twenty pounds.

* J. B. Russell's MSS.

† Sexton.

‡ Inn-keeper.

Item, I give also unto All my God Children being Nyne in Number namely John Welshman, Emmanuel Milles, John Foorde, John Foorde the Younger, Richard Joanes, Robert Rendell the Younger, Ralph Percote, Daniel Seaburne, Joanna Hodder, to Each and every of them the Summe of five pounds apeece.

Item, I give unto Margaret Lincole five pounds.

Item, I give unto Walter Bennett five pounds.

Item, I give unto William Balston Five pounds.

Item, I likewise give unto divers poore Tradesmen of Beamister namely to John Evans Forty Shillings, to John Dent Forty Shillings, to John Furser the Younger Forty Shillings, to William James Forty Shillings, to John Purchas and his Son Forty Shillings.

To Richard Leakey and to John Hodder Forty Shillings, to John Fletcher Forty Shillings, to Adam Bastard Forty Shillings.

And I give unto the Poore of the parish of Beamister the sum of Five pounds to be distributed amongst them at, or shortly after my Funerall, according to the good Likeinge of myne Executors.

Item, I give unto my Couzin Jane sometyne dwelling with Mr. Parker of Ley Five pounds.

And I also give unto the Parish Church of Abbotsbury Ten pounds.

Item, I further give unto the poore people of the same Towne of Abbotsbury One hundred pounds to remayne and continue as a Stock of Money or otherwise as myne Executors shall think fitt.

Item, I give unto the Church of Bridport Ten pounds.

Item, I give to the Parish Church of Poorstock Forty Shillings.

And to the Poore of the same Parish Eight pounds.

Likewise I give unto the parish Church of Netherbury Forty shillings, And I give unto the Poore of the same Parish Eight pounds.

Item, I give to the parish Church of Stoke Abbott Forty Shillings, And I give to the Poore of the same Parish Sixe pounds.

Item, I give unto Thomas Ellis of Lorscombe Forty Shillings.

Item, I give unto John Ellis his Brother, Forty Shillings.

Item, I give unto John Waldron of the same place Forty Shillings.

And to John Waldron his Sonne Forty Shillings.

And I also give for the Building of a Howse for the Poore of Beamister Forty Pounds.

And I give for the Maintenance of the same Howse Twenty pounds.

Item, I give unto the Market Howse the Summe of Five Pounds to be employed in the Building of the same when it shall be ended and finished.

Item, I give unto Prowde Pridge, and Lane's Bridge* for the Repayring of them Five pounds.

Item, I give unto Cicely Miller of Abbotsbury Forty Shillings.

Item, I give to be bestowed in a Dinner (amongst my good Friends at my Funerall) five pounds.

Item, I give to them which shall carry mee to the Church Forty Shillings,

And I also give unto three and Twenty Poore Folkes of the Towne of Beamister here after mentioned, viz.—

Thomas Jerrard, John Dammett, John Rendell, Luke Sibley, William Belby, Widow Phelps, Widow Raynell, John Raynell, Robert Raynell,

* Church street.

Widow Mills, James Philpe, Emma Charles, Hugh Champion Senior, Eve Studley, Frances Morris, Stephen Rogers, Henry Chick, James Lawrence, Widow Toogood, Widow Canterbury, Henry Mills, William Parsons, Giles Short, and to Each and Every one of them Severally, Twenty Shillings apeece.

All the Rest of my Goods and Chattles whatsoever moveable and immoveable my Debts and Legacyes being truely paide and Funerall performed I absolutely give and bequeath unto Henry Hillary the Elder of Meerhay within the County of Dorset, Yeoman, and John Hoskins of Beamister aforesaide Vintner (my very good Friends) whome now make constitute and appointe myne whole Executors jointly together of this my last Will and Testament.

This myne aforesaid Will and Testament being published and declared the Twentieth day of February in the Yeares of the Reigne of our Sovereigne Lord King Charles over England &c. the thirde—Annoy Dom 1626.

These being Witnesses whose Names are underwritten, *Viz*—

Hugh Champion
John Hodder
Marye Hoskins."

This Will was proved in the Archbishop of Canterbury's Register Office, June 28th, 1627.

The legacies given in the Will amount in the whole to £746. With the £200 given to "the Poore of the Parish of Beamister" an Estate at Allen's Loscombe was purchased.

From the Commissioners' Report (*Lord Brougham's Commission*) concerning Charities 1818-1837 we learn that—

"By Deed of feoffment dated 18th January, 1628 (3rd Charles I) John Hallet and others, in consideration of £144, part of the money to that end given by the said Gilbert Adams, conveyed to Harry Hillary and six others, and their heirs, a messuage or tenement, and two orchards and a garden thereunto adjoining, situate in Allen's Loscombe, in the Parish of Powerstock, in the County of Dorset; together with a close of pasture, called Gort, containing, by estimation, three yards; and one close of meadow, called Park Mead, containing, by estimation, one acre; and another close of meadow, called Broad Mead, containing one acre and a half; one close called Moor containing one acre and a half; one close of pasture called the West Croft, containing by estimation four acres; one close of pasture called the Middle Dodden containing three acres; one other close of pasture called the West Dodden containing four acres; and one other close thereunto adjoining called Rudge Close containing one acre, to and for the relief of the poor people born and dwelling within the town of Beaminster.

In a memorandum book kept by George Strode, Esq. [grandson of Sir John Strode, Knt.] after stating the purchase above recited, is an entry in the following words, and in his hand-writing—

'And it further appears that a house was bought, and poor people

placed in it, to live rent free with the money left by Gilbert Adams to build and support a house for that use. This house being very ruinous, so as likely to fall down, it was then rebuilt; the expense of which amounted to £—. This house, after being rebuilt, was employed as a workhouse; and all the poor of the parish that wanted relief were taken in, and employed, and maintained.

The ground upon which the present workhouse is erected is copyhold, parcel of the manor of Beaminster Parsonatus, otherwise Netherbury in Ecclesiâ. There does not appear to be any evidence of the purchase of this ground, the court-rolls of this manor not extending further back than the year 1649.

The last admission of trustees to this property was on the 12th May, 1809, when George Notley and John Hallett were admitted to the premises by the description of 'all that tenement containing a dwelling-house, with the backside garden and other appurtenances to the same belonging, situate in East Street, in Beaminster, in the county of Dorset, and being parcel of the manor aforesaid; which said premises are now used and called by the name of the Workhouse for the poor belonging to the said parish of Beaminster' upon trust for the parishioners of the parish of Beaminster, and to be employed as and for a workhouse for the poor of the said parish as aforesaid.

The present trustees of the Loscombe estate are Sir William Oglander, bart., Samuel Cox, Giles Russell, Thomas Fox, Peter Cox, and James Daniel, who were appointed by deed, 29th May, 1822.

It appears from a survey made in the year 1776, that the workhouse and garden occupy a plot containing 3*r*. 31*p*.

The estate at Loscombe, purchased for the better maintenance of the workhouse and the relief of the poor, consists at present, of the following closes of land—

		A. R. P.
Broad Mead	Meadow	1 : 0 : 28
Prunico, or Park Mead	do.	1 : 1 : 7
Gort	Pasture	1 : 0 : 18
Aldermoor	do.	2 : 0 : 35
Bean Close, or West Croft	do.	3 : 2 : 17
Dotton and Ridge Close	do.	9 : 0 : 34
		<hr/>
		18 : 2 : 19

The farm is held by Mr. Robert Symes, as tenant-at-will, at the yearly rent of £24, at which sum it has been let since the year 1805.

The rent is paid to Mr. Samuel Cox, as treasurer, who expends the amount in the repairs and improvement of the workhouse. No portion is however, applied towards the maintenance or relief of the inmates."

At a Vestry Meeting held 16th May, 1739, the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor were "Impowered to meet and confer with the Ffeoffees and Trustees of the Charity Lands and House purchased with the money given by the last Will and Testament of Gilbert Adams ds^{ed}, and to consider of proper means necessary to be taken

in order to rebuild the House in Beamister called Gilbert Adams Alms House, so as to make it capable and fitt to receive all the poor of the parish."

This entry is signed by Geo. Strode, Theo^{dr} Le vieux and other "principal inhabitants."

In 1742 the "Alms House" was rebuilt. On July 30th that year, the Trustees of Tucker's Charity "paid Mr. Robert Richards towards Rebuilding Gilbert Adams Charity House £20."*

1760, May 13th. At a Vestry Meeting "It was unanimously agreed that the Poor of this Parish shall be relieved in the Work House, and no person to be relieved out of the House unless in case of sickness, and then not for more than One Month unless the Parish Doctor do certifie they are not fit to be removed into the House. And that Mr. Daniel Cox do imploy Mary Gundry in the Spinning Way & pay her Six pence p. week for One Year; & to imploy Susanna Serjeant for two Years, the first year at 6d. p. week, the second at One Shilling p. week."

1763, April 8th. "Its agreed at this Vestry to give Luke March of Crewkerne the sune of two Guineas for Each Child he shall keep at his house and Cure there scurf or scall'd heads; its agreed he shall be re-emburs'd the Money to the overseers if any of the said Children shall break in the disorder againe in the term of Seven years.

witness my hand
Luke March.

During the year 1766 it appears that the premises were burnt to the ground.

"At a Vestory held this 4th day of June, 1766, in and for this sd Parish of Beamister on the Occasion of a Fire w^{ch} has lately haptened in the Worke house of this s^d Parrish w^{ch} has redused the same to Aishes together with all the Furniture belonging to the Same and the materials there in contained for setting the Poore of the s^d Parrish to Worke. It is agreed & resolved by us the Minister, Churchwardens & Overseers & other considerable Proprietors of Lands within the s^d Parrish as followeth & first

* "John Hoskins Gifford, Esqre, and William Mills, Esqre, two of the Trustees of this Charity did agree that their Legacies of Ten pounds each given in & by Mrs. Frances Tucker's Will should be laid out in Repairing Gilbert Adams House in Beamister."

we agree & resolve to Rebuild the s^d Worke house upon the Spot where it lately stood & of the same sise & demen- tions as the former and to cover the same with Cornish Slatt; and all other out buildings nessesasery for the s^d Workehouse shall be covered with the like materials & shall not be errected within Teen Feet of the s^d Worke- house; that the s^d rebuildings shall be began & finish as soon as posably in Ord^r for the Reception of the Poore of the s^d Parrish & that R^d Symes Esq^{re}. Sam. Cox, Geo. Eveleigh, James Daniel together with the Churchwardens & Overseers of the s^d Parrish for the time being shall and hereby appoynted to Contract with any Workeman for Rebuilding the s^d Houses, and for buying Materials for the purposes thereof and that all charges & Expenses attending the Same shall be paid out of Poors Rates to be collected in the s^d Parrish of Beamister according to the present Taxaction. Signed by us the day & Year last above written. Thos. Rayne. Vicar”

1767, April 24th. “Expences Maintaining the Poore 13 Months & 3 Weeks—£396 - 17 - 6½.

Expences in Rebuilding the Worke House as in a book that have been kept for that Purpose £336 - 11 - 9.

Total £733 - 9 - 3½.

Rec^d by 120 Poore Rates at £5 . 14 . 8½ p. Rate—

£688 . 5 . 0

Other Payments £45 . 4 . 3½

£733 . 9 . 3½”

At this period Vestry Meetings appear to have been often held on Sundays.

The Workhouse Fire Policy for the year 1811 states that the Building is “stone built and tiled.”

In 1796 the Trustees of Gilbert Adams’ Charity were:

Sir William Oglander, Bart.

Bennet Combe.

John Russell.

James Daniel, Sen^r.

John Banger Russell.

Samuel Cox, Jun^r.

James Dunning.

Samuel Cox, Sen^r.

Bishop Dunning.

Thomas Harris.

Daniel Cox.

James Daniel, Jun^r.

The annual income applied towards maintaining and repairing the Workhouse was £19 10s. 0d.

According to the "Workhouse Day Book" the House contained in 1830—

Parlour, Governor's Bedroom, Vestry Room, Store Room, Pantry, Kitchen, Wash House, School Room, Idiot's Room, Dead Room, Magazine, Women's Bed Room, Men's Bed Room, South Garratt, North Garratt, Dining Room, Invalid's Room, Hospital Room, Married Men and Women's Bed Room—also Pig's House, Potato House, and Blind House. In the Kitchen were thirty-eight Wooden dishes and twelve Trenchers.*

In an inventory of 1785 is an entry of "120 Timber dishes 3^d each and 44 Trenchers 7/4"

During the year 1838 the inmates of the Gilbert Adams Parish Workhouse were transferred to the Union Workhouse at Stoke Water. The same year a portion of the old building facing the street was converted into a School-room for the elementary education of girls and infants; this continued until the erection of the National Schools in Hogshill street, to which the children were removed in 1868.

The old school-room, 64ft. long by 18ft. 6ins. wide, was also utilized for parish meetings and entertainments; it continued to be so used until taken down for the erection of the present Boy's Elementary School.†

There are many entries in the Parish Workhouse books which throw a vivid light on life within the Institution.

Here is the Weekly Dietary Table for 1774—

Sunday—	Breakfast.	Adults.	Bread 6ozs.	Children 5ozs.
"	Dinner.	"	" 4ozs.	" 3ozs.
"	"	"	Bacon 4ozs.	" 2ozs.
	together with Garden stuff.			
Monday—	Breakfast.	Adults.	Bread 4ozs.	Children 3ozs., with
	Pot Broth and Otmill.			
"	Dinner.	Adults.	Bread 6ozs.	Children 5ozs.
"	Supper.	"	" 4ozs.	" 3ozs.
	also Milk Broth and Otmill.			
Tuesday—	Breakfast.	Adults.	4ozs. Bread.	Children 3ozs., with
	Milk Broth and Otmill.			
"	Dinner.	Pease and Bacon.	Adults 4ozs.	Children 3ozs.
"	Supper.	Pease Broth.	Bread. Adults 4ozs.	" 3ozs.

* The writer possesses a wooden trencher, 8ins. square, with a circular cavity 6½ins. in diameter; at one corner is a small depression for salt. On the back of the plate is imprinted the words "Beaminster Workhouse." Barnes, in his poem the *Harvest Hwome*, refers to—

" . . . wooden trenchers, square,
Wi' salt-holes at the rim."

† See Chapter XVIII.

Wednesday—	Breakfast.	Bread.	Adults 4ozs.	Children 3ozs., with Milk Broth and Otmill.
„	Dinner.	Adults.	Bread 6ozs.	Children 5ozs.
„	Supper.	„	„ 4ozs.	„ 3ozs.
				with Milk Broth and Otmill.
Thursday—	Breakfast.	Adults.	Bread 4ozs.	Children 3ozs., with Milk Broth and Otmill.
„	Dinner.	Adults.	Bread 6ozs.	Children 5ozs.
„	Supper.	„	„ 4ozs.	„ 3ozs., with Milk Broth and Otmill.
Friday—	Breakfast.	Adults.	Bread 4ozs.	Children 3ozs., with Milk Broth and Otmill.
„	Dinner	Adults.	4ozs. Bread.	Children 3ozs.
„	„	„	4ozs. Bacon.	„ 2ozs.
				together with Garden stuff.
„	Supper.	Adults.	4ozs. Bread.	Children 3ozs., with Pot Broth and Otmill.
Saturday—	Breakfast.	Adults.	Bread 4ozs.	Children 3ozs., with Milk Broth and Otmill.
„	Dinner.	Adults.	Bread 6ozs.	Children 5ozs.
„	Supper.	„	„ 4ozs.	„ 3ozs., with Milk Broth and Otmill.

Note.—“By this Bill of Fare each Person have 96ozs. Bread, 12ozs. Bacon. Garden Stuff two; Otmill eleven; Pease one; Milk nine [times.] Children have 75ozs. Bread, 6ozs. Bacon. If Beef instead of Bacon; Cow 18ozs., Bull 24ozs.”

In 1746, John Bussel of Netherbury, a Clothier, was appointed “as a proper person to take care of and set the Poor in the Work House to Work, to be paid for his care and trouble after the rate of Twelve Pounds for a Year, and shall also allow him one shilling out of every Pound that the Poor in the said Work House shall get by their Work.”

Amongst other payments for the year 1746 we find—

Paid Ben. Hoskins for a Brewing Vat £3 : 0 : 0.

5 Bushels of Malt at 2/8—13/4

4 Bushels Wheat at 5/3—£1 : 1 : 0

244 Pounds of Beef at 1½d.—£1 : 10 : 6

½ a Hund. of Chees at 12/- pr. Hund.—6/-

a Hund. and a qr. of furze at 5/- per Hund.—6/3

Bushel of Peas 3/4

P^d for Halling 2 Hogsheads of Water to brew in the Work House.

1747. “Richard Hoskings and Martha his wife were appointed to act as Master and Mistress of Workhouse

and paid out of the Poor rates after the Rate of Eight Pounds a Year, and likewise Receive Two Shillings and Six pence out of every Twenty Shillings that the Poor shall earn in the House."

Every Month two Rate-payers were selected to act as Managers of the Workhouse.

When the House was full the Children were boarded out at 6^d per Week.

1749. George Toop, Yeoman of Evershot, appointed Master of the Workhouse.

1750. "Mr. John Daniel, Apothecary and Surgeon to the Work House Six Guineas a year."

1750. "Expenses of Keep in Workhouse exclusive of salaries £180."

1751. "Mr. Hoskins appointed Apothecary and Surgeon to the Workhouse & Parish" at a salary of £10 *per annum*.

1751, Oct. 27th. "Geo. Toop dismissed for absenting himself from the Workhouse both by day and knight." He was further charged with having "often sold and dispos'd of Victuals and other things." Richard Hoskins was appointed Master.

1753. At a Vestry Meeting it was agreed that "when wheat is abov. 5 shillings pr. bushel, there shall be bought weekly so many bushels of barley as wheat for the use of the workhouse. Also that Mr. Lancelot Mills and Mr. Sam. Cox (two of the present Overseers) shall buy a stock of Cloathing of all sorts (in the wholesale way) for use of the poor in the Workhouse.

It was also ord^d and agreed (Sep. 16th).

I.—That the Overseers do Forthwith Repair the Blind House for the Confindment of the Disorderly Persons in the Work-house, and such Persons as are guilty of any fauld so as to be their confind, shall during such Confindment be fed ondley wth Bread & Water.

II.—That no Person shall without the Consent of the Overseers go out of the House on paine of Forfiting for the first Offence one Meal's Victuals; for the Second Two Meals; for the Third a whole Day; & the Fourth to be Confined in the Blind House Twenty-four hours."

1766. Easter Vestry. "Ordered that the Poor in the Workhouse shall all be clothed in One uniform."

1771. "To John Grant for 4 Casks of Pickled Pork 300 pounds each,—£18

Harbour Dues & Carriage 6/4

3 Spinning* Wheels at 5/9 each."

Charges are also entered for "Building a Turn House," *i.e.* a spinning shed.

1772. To Jno. Miles for 226 pound of Bull Beef at 1^d lb.
—18/10

1780. Sam^l Cox & Co. for 4 Turnstrings 1/2

1780. "It is agreed that every Woman who shall be taken in the Workhouse upon having a second Bastard Child, Application shall be made to some Justice of the Peace to commit such Woman to the House of Correction."†

On the 15th April, 1785, certain Rules were agreed to "For the better Regulation of this Parish in future," by the owners or occupiers of Lands in the Parish. The rules are twelve in number and are signed by eighteen rate-payers. The following are a few extracts—

No poor to be relieved outside of the Workhouse except in case of illness or infectious diseases.

Sick Persons out of the House to receive One shilling per week, and no others.

That every Person is to wear the Parish Clothes & no other Poor in the House to be employed in Work and Labour for the Benefit of the Parish.

That no Poor be allowed out of the House except on a Sunday, when they shall be permitted to go to Church or to some other place of public Worship in the morning & afternoon. But in case they do not return to the Workhouse within one quarter of an Hour after the Service is ended, or shall be seen begging in the Streets either in going or returning, or shall be wandering out of the Direct Road to and from the Church or other place of public Worship, such poor person or persons so making Default shall lose his, her, or their next meal.

1786. No money to be paid to any Poor Person contracted for but to the overseers.

If any poor person contracted for refuse to work, be idle, or refuse to obey the lawful Commands of his Em-

* The mention of "spinning" amongst the work done by the women inmates, reminds us of a lapsed feature of country life. Where now are spinning-wheels once found in almost every home? The accounts have numerous entries of money earned by spinning.

† See Chapter XV.

ployer, the person shall the next day after the complaint, be put & kept in the Blind house for a whole day without any Victuals.

Potatoes for the Poor in the House, 1s. 6d. per sack of 240lbs. ; in another entry the charge is 2s. 5d. per sack. Milk, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per gallon.

1790. Governor Symes £12 os. 0d. Salary, one year.

During the year 1793 the average number of inmates was one hundred.

1796. 3 Bushels Flour 42s. 2 Bushels Barley 10s. There were 80 old people and 51 young in the House.

The earnings of Spinners were £6 to £12 per month.

1797. 4 Bushels Oatmeal per month at 6s. per bushel.

1798. 100 sacks of Potatoes at 5s. 3d. per sack.

1800. Number of inmates in the Work House 130.

1802. Monthly payments, viz. : Tending the Idiot 1s. Charwoman 2s. Cook 2s. Schooling 2s. Dame of the spinning path 2s.

1803. 40 Bushels Grey Pease at 10s. per bushel—£20

1804. Sam^l Cox, Esq^{re}, 100 Sacks potatoes at 6s.—£30

1807. Thomas Hine & Sons 40 yards Drab Cloth at 2s. 8d. per yard.

1810. Mr. Swatridge 9 cwt. Bread at 28s. 3d. per cwt.—£12 14s. 3d. 1 peck Flour 5s.

1812. June. Bread 35s. 11d. per cwt. Flour 5s. 10d. per peck.

1812. July. Bread 39s. per cwt. Flour 6s. 6d. per peck.

1812. Aug. Bread 41s. 6d. per cwt. Flour 6s. 8d. per peck. 7lbs. Sugar 5s. 6d.

1814. P^d for 17 gals. Beer for the Poor in the House to celebrate the Peace £2 5s. 4d.

1815. Geo. Hine 47 $\frac{3}{4}$ yds. Cloth at 2s. 8d. per yard—£6 7s. 4d.

Also 30yds. Sheeting at 14d. per yard—£1 15s. 0d.

1821. Richard Hine 75yds. Dowlas at 1s. per yard. 1 cwt. Salt £1 17s. 0d.

1822. Bread charged 11s. 2d. per cwt.

1827. Richard Hine 35yds. Lindsey at 16d. per yard—£2 6s. 8d.

1829. 14lbs. 6ozs. Worsted at 2s. 4d. per lb.—£1 18s. 10d.

1831. Richard Hine. Worsted £5 18s. 0d.

The accounts were rendered to "The Gentlemen of Beaminster."

WORKHOUSE RULES, 1834.

That the Hair of each inmate be cut decently short.

That no Hair ornaments or Ear rings be suffered to be worn by any inmate.

That the Workhouse Livery be worn by every individual entering the same immediately, and their own clothes to be taken care of and returned to them on quitting the same & if any wilful injury be done to the Clothes belonging to the House, the value of such injury to be deducted out of his or her earnings or summon^d.

Duty of Governor & Governess—To admit such persons only into the Workhouse as shall be sent there with a note in writing for that purpose, sign^d by one or more of the Overseers for the time being or Committee, and all letters rec^d to be submitted to the Overseers or Committee for the time being, before answered.

To keep a just Register of all persons admitted into the Workhouse.

To keep a just and true diary of the conduct of the Inmates of the said House, and of all provisions, clothing, matters and things brought into the same for their support, maintenance, employment, or otherwise; and of the particular distribution; and also especially to attend to the sick and infirm.

To report to the Overseers or Committee for the time being, any departure from the time of any contracts that may so be entered into for the support, maintenance or employment of the Inmates of the said House, either in quantity or quality, and to receive their special directions on the occasion.

To Watch strictly the conduct of the Inmates of the said House and to enforce the adoption of cleanliness among them, and to use their utmost endeavour to prevent the selling or otherwise disposing of their daily rations of food or clothing.

To enforce amongst the inmates a due observance of the Sabbath, and to cause them to attend the Church or such other place of worship as they may have been accustomed to or desirous of attending. To keep a true Inventory of all Goods, Chattels, and Effects belonging to the Parish, and to deliver the same to the Overseers or Committee whenever required to do so for the inspection of the Inhabitants, and in all things to observe the strictest economy, and prevent to the utmost of their power any waste, spoil, or damage being committed.

To allow each inmate out of his or her earnings the sum of three Halfpence out of every Shilling as an encouragement for industry.

To always keep a fair legible copy of the Diary of Rations hung up in three conspicuous places about the House. To keep the Door always clos^d and no inmate to go out without permission of the Governor, never after five o'clock in the Winter or Eight in the Summer, when all inmates are to be in the House for the Night.

To use a discretionary power in illness as to allowing other things not before mentioned.

With the passing of the *Poor Law Bill* of 1834 (which by the establishment of Unions of Parishes placed the local boards under the superintendence of the Government)

disappeared the Village Workhouse ; for in days gone by each parish had a poor-house of its own.

We have still standing in many villages picturesque old cottages which were once used as Parish Workhouses ; those of Broadwindsor and Netherbury have not yet been demolished.*

With the old-fashioned poor-house has passed the system which gave it the name of *work* house. The original idea of the workhouse was that it should pay its way or seek to pay its way, by the industry of its inmates. The able-bodied or partly able-bodied destitute men, women, and children, were let out to neighbouring farmers and others, who paid the workhouse for their hire either by tender or contract. That the inmates earned a considerable amount in this way for the ratepayers is seen by the many entries in the receipt columns of the old account books. The women, too, earned money for the house by knitting, charing, spinning and other work.

The Workhouse authorities usually paid back a small portion of the payments to the paupers who earned them, the Governor too received a poundage.

On the whole we cannot complain of the loss of this system ; for the thing became a scandal—farmers and others habitually getting labour at an exceedingly cheap rate at public expense.

1836, June 30th. It is recorded that the inmates of the several Workhouses [Beaminster, Broadwindsor, and Stoke Abbott] were not satisfied with the prescribed diet, *viz.* for dinner 8ozs. of meat and 12ozs. vegetables, which was changed for one week's trial to 7ozs. meat and 1½lbs. of vegetables.

In 1837 permission was granted “ to all Paupers of 60 years of age and upwards, to attend the Parish Church during the Week on Prayer Days, so long as they conduct themselves properly.”

After the Union Workhouse was erected at Stoke Water, the income of Gilbert Adams' bequest was paid over to the managers of the Elementary School, on the understanding that pupils' school fees were accordingly reduced. The payment continued until the coming of free education, when the charity money could no longer

* The Stoke Abbott Workhouse was taken down when the present school buildings were erected on its site.

be paid for scholastic purposes, or rather for relief of the ratepayers.

In 1896 the income of the Charity was applied to the "Nursing Institution" under a Charity Commission Scheme, wherein it is enacted that the endowments of the Charity shall be administered and managed by a body of four Representative and three Co-optative Trustees . . . The Representative Trustees shall be appointed by the Parish Council of Beaminster for a term of four years. Co-optative Trustees hold office for eight years. Subject to certain payments "the yearly income of the Charity shall be applied by the Trustees in making payments under one or more of the following heads, for the benefit either of the poor of the Parish of Beaminster generally, or of such deserving and necessitous persons resident therein, as the Trustees select for this purpose, and in such way as they consider most advantageous to the recipients, and most conducive to the formation of provident habits—

(a) Contributions towards the provision of Nurses for the Sick and Infirm.

(b) Contributions towards the provision of appliances and comforts for the benefit of the Sick and Infirm.

(c) Contributions to the funds of any Charitable Institution providing such Nurses as aforesaid.

Provided that the funds of the Charities shall in no case be applied directly or indirectly in relief of the Rates of the Parish, or so that any individual or institution may become entitled to a periodical or recurrent benefit therefrom."

"GILBERT ADAMS" NURSING INSTITUTION.

The foundation of a "Sick Nursing Institution for the poor of Beaminster and its neighbourhood" may be said to date from the year 1878.

For its establishment we are indebted to Cecilia Mary Codd the only daughter of Canon Codd, Vicar of the parish. The foundress had spent some months in the wards of the Evelina Hospital for Children, and she realised the many benefits that might be bestowed on the poor and others in time of sickness if a nurse was available.

At the first annual meeting of subscribers held November 1st, 1879, the Honorary Secretaries—Miss C. M. Codd and Mrs. S. B. Kitson—who were entirely responsible for the

working of the Institution, presented their report. From it we learn that the Nurse (Julia Hill) had attended during the past year about fifty distinct cases. The total subscriptions received amounted to £56 5s. 2d., the expenditure being £52 7s. 11½d. The next year the subscriptions and donations were £61 13s. 6½d. and the expenditure £46 2s. 10d.

On the 29th September, 1881, Miss Codd, aged 27, died at Witham, Essex, and the work of carrying on the Institution devolved on the remaining Hon. Secretary, Mrs. S. B. Kitson.

According to the report issued for the year 1880-81 the receipts amounted to £59 11s. 3d. and the expenditure £42 9s. 6d.

In 1894 the annual report of the Institution stated "We have to deplore the death of Lady Oglander* who, since it was first founded . . . has given her generous help to the necessary funds for maintaining the nurse. Unless the subscriptions are considerably increased we can only carry on the work for another year."

It appears that the Institution was only saved from extinction by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners, dated 10th July, 1896.

On September 7th, 1896, at a meeting of the subscribers to the Nursing Institution, the Chairman, the Rev. A. A. Leonard stated that the Trustees of Gilbert Adams' Charity had resolved to vote the income of the Charity annually to the Nursing Institution provided—

(a) That the Institution provides the remainder of the sum necessary for the Nurse's maintenance by means of voluntary subscriptions.

(b) That the Trustees of Gilbert Adams' Charity appoint half the number of members of the managing committee, the other half being appointed by the subscribers to the funds of the Institution.

(c) That it be suggested to the Institution, that it be called in future the "Gilbert Adams Nursing Institution for the Parish of Beaminster."

On the death of Mrs. S. B. Kitson (The Lodge), Mrs. J. Lane Kitson (Eastcot) was elected Hon. Secretary and Superintendent, October, 1896.

* Lady Louisa, widow of Sir Henry Oglander, contributed annually £25.

Nurse J. A. Proffitt was appointed in October, 1896, and remained until April, 1898.

Nurse E. H. Thomson, May, 1898, to April, 1900.

Nurse Winifred G. Smith, April, 1900, to April, 1902.

Nurse J. A. Proffitt re-appointed April, 1902, to June, 1903.

Nurse Elizabeth Baker, July, 1903, to December, 1907.

Nurse Agnes Wilson, January, 1908, to May, 1908.

Nurse Edith W. Bardsley, June, 1908, to January, 1910.

Nurse Harriett Agnes Coombes, January, 1910, to October, 1913.

Nurse Charlotte Osborne, December, 1913.

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 31ST, 1911.

<i>Receipts.</i>				<i>Expenditure.</i>			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Balance and Interest	1	19	5	Nurse's Salary ..	85	0	0
Trustees " Gilbert				Surgical and Nursing			
Adams " Charity	35	0	0	Appliances, etc. ..	11	0	0
Subscriptions and				Printing, Stationery,			
Donations ..	43	8	3	etc. ..	1	1	1
Patients' Fees, etc. ..	13	6	10	Insurance of Nurse ..	0	7	6
Concerts ..	4	1	9	Balance in hand	0	7	8
	<hr/> £97 16 3 <hr/>				<hr/> £97 16 3 <hr/>		

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY.

	a.	r.	p.	Tenants.	Gross Yearly
Lands at Loscombe in the Parish	18	1	32		Income.
of Powerstock				Dan. Legg	£35 0 0
Lands in the Parish of Beaminster	.	2	33	Various	£3 14 0
Deposit in Bank	£50	0	0		£1 5 0

There are three Co-öptative Trustees of Gilbert Adams' Charity, also four Representative Trustees appointed by the Beaminster Parish Council.

The Gilbert Adams' Nursing Institution—which is doing beneficent work in the parish—is now managed by a Committee of twelve, six of whom are chosen by the Subscribers at the Annual General Meeting, and six by the Trustees of the Charity.

Persons in receipt of parish relief, and labourers entirely dependent on weekly wages may have the services of the Nurse entirely free, except in midwifery cases.

When the Nurse is not occupied in nursing the poor, her services may be engaged by others, who are charged at the rate of 3*d.* to 1*s.* per visit, according to the nature of the case and the patients' circumstances, at the discretion of the Committee.

During the year ending 31st October, 1913, the Nurse visited her patients 3,476 times.

STRODE'S ALMSHOUSE.

On the site of an ancient Chantry House Sir John Strode of Parnham and Chantmarle, Knight, built the present Alms-house in the year 1630.* It is a small one-story building with Ham-stone mullioned windows, divided into three tenements, and affords very limited accommodation for six persons. The house which adjoins the churchyard on its north-west side, had a stone fixed in the front wall inscribed—

God's House
Sit Honos Trino Deo†
Anno Dom
1630.

Hutchins says—"By deed dated in or about the year 1627 Sir John Strode endowed his almshouse with a dwelling-house and garden lying on the west side of it, two-thirds of Bilshay Farm in Loders, which was before charged with a perpetual annuity of £6 to the parish of Symonds-bury, and certain quit rents, called St. Helen's rents amounting to £2 : 15 : 0 a year. And directed that six poor people should be maintained in his almshouse for ever, to be chosen from Bemminster, or elsewhere, at the discretion of his heirs.

By his will dated 1637, he gives the yearly profit of £200 to be employed towards the maintenance of his alms-people in God's House in Bemminster, until the land called Bilshay, lying in Loders, shall fall into possession.

Lady Joan Turberville, daughter of Sir John Strode, by her Will dated 2 Feb., 1678, gives to the poor people of her father's almshouse in Bemminster £50 to be laid out as a stock for the said almshouse for ever.

The inmates six in number, either men or women, are chosen by Sir H. Oglander, the representative of the donor."

* His following of the law made him Master of the Bench of the Middle Temple and Recorder of Bridport, and gave him the means for the founding of the Beaminster Almshouse and for the purchase of Chantmarle.

† John Banger Russell says: "I have been told that Sir John Strode often wrote the motto 'Sit Honos Trino Deo' [Honour be to the Triune God] in his books."

At the end of the eighteenth century the dwelling-house above referred to had disappeared ; but its site and the " garden lying on the west side of it " was then let to John Brown at one guinea a year.

The following information gives particulars of the income of the Alms-house at its foundation—

Rents settled by my Grandfather S ^r John Strode on his Almes house, called God's House 6 Jany, 1630	
Wm. Spelt pays for one of the houses built on the Chantry Lands 5/- Quarterly is p. An	1 : 0 : 0
Robt. Strokege for a house w ^{ch} was antiently the Chantry House 5/- Quarterly	1 : 0 : 0
John Gudge for a little House antiently built on the Chantry Grounds 3s. 4d. Quarterly	0 : 13 : 4
The Widowe Hoop for a room in the Chantry House 3s. 4d. Quarterly is p. Annum	0 : 13 : 4
Hoskins holds a new erected house set on the Chantry Grounds by Agrem ^t & in exchange of an Other house newly pulled downe, he held for 3 lives, paying Quarterly 6d. - - yearly	0 : 02 : 0
Total	3 : 08 : 8

A Teniment called Bilshay in the Parish of Lodors pays yearly to the Almshouse	
John Bamfield pays yearly at Milm ^s for Lands in Chilfroome p ^t of Rents payable to the Chapell of St. Hellens in Chilfroome	14 : 0 : 0
Wm. Glisson for other lands payable to the said Chappell	1 : 06 : 8
Mathew Coomb for Lands, &c.	. : 03 : 0
Hen ^y Chilcott for Do.	. : 03 : 0
Rob ^t Rodgers for Do.	. : 03 : 0
John Chiles is to pay for Lands in Buckland	. : 2 : 6
Hen ^y Maniford is to pay for Do. in Do.	. : 2 : 6
These were rents of St. Hellens but are in arrear 2 years & undistraned for 2 years at Milm ^s 1631.	

19 : 12 : 4

The foregoing account was written by George Strode, Esq., on a scrap of paper. On the back of the rental is the following memoranda in handwriting of an earlier date. " These 2^d—3^d—4th ensuing leaves ar reserved for the tyme to cum redy to register the names & Qualeties of such as shall successively be p^rferred unto & placed in this Almes howse when any shall dye or be removed for any cause or cryme. And for example these 2 following p^rsidents may be sum direction.

Memorandn that A. B. An Almes man of Gods howse (aged about 80 yeres) And having lived an Almes man herre by 7 yers, dyed 20 Dembris Año Dni, 1634. And in his roome was C. D. a poore aged feeble or lame man (of honest fame) p'ferred & placed by S^r Jo. Strode, Knight, upon the Comendations of E. F. & G. H. & others of the better sort of the Parishioners of Beeminster.

Memorandn that J. K., widowe, An Almes woman of Gods howse aged about 75 yers, And having lived an Almes woman heere abou[t] 8 yers space, was remooved & displaced this howse 1 Aprilis Año Dñi 1640, for not frequenting the church or not receaving the sacrament of the Lords supper twice in the year according to the Constitutions of this howse, or for being a blasphemous swerer or a disolute liver, or a wanderer or prigger by night, or a comon scold or the lyke.

And therupon l. m. a poore aged or lame widowe of honest fame & conversation was p'ferred & placed in her roome by Jo. Strode, Esqr., 20 Aprilis following, upon the advise & Comendations of N.O.P.Q. & of others of the better sort of the p'sh of Beeminster."

The following information has been extracted from the *Commissioners' Report (Lord Brougham's Commission) concerning Charities, 1818-37*—

"We could not discover from any authentic document the origin of this endowment

The garden attached to the almshouses is let to Mr. John Hamilton of Beaminster, clothier, at the yearly rental of £1 : 10 : 0.

The repairs of Bilshay Farm, and of the almshouses have always been borne by Sir W. Oglander and his predecessors, without making any demand for it upon this charity fund, as also the charge for medical attendance.

The persons maintained in the almshouses are six in number, either men or women, who receive each 1/- per week, meat, bread, fuel, shoes, stockings, coats and cloaks.

The inmates are chosen by Sir William Oglander, from distressed persons of a better class, who have not generally received parochial aid; and the supplies are apportioned amongst them, at his discretion."

The income of the Charity was formerly derived mainly from "an undivided two-thirds of 33'941 acres, part of Bilshay Farm (containing 82*a.* 1*r.* 6*p.*, or thereabouts) in the parishes of Netherbury, Symonds bury and Allington."

In a "Report of Commissioners for enquiring into Charities," it was stated that by a survey made in 1735,

the portion of Bilshay Farm belonging to the Charity consisted of 43*a.* 3*r.* 37*p.*

According to the Charity Commissioner's Schedule of property the acreage appears to have been incorrectly stated. With regard to the annual sum of £6, payable to the poor of Symondsbury, this amount according to the Charity Commissioners is chargeable out of the two-thirds of Bilshay Farm belonging to the Charity, and not out of the whole farm. This point they state "is clearly shown by a statement in a Manuscript Book entitled 'Sir John Strode—Orders, &c. Relating his Indowments of his Alms-house called God's House in Beaminster, 1630,' from which it appears that the Founder, Sir John Strode, purchased the two undivided parts of Bilshay Farm already charged by John Sheere the Vendor with a rent of £6 per annum for the use of the Poore of Symesborowe."

The original Deed of Settlement by Sir John Strode is not now extant, nor can the enrolment thereof be traced in the Record Office. Neither can Lady Joan Turberville's Will be found at Somerset House.

The £50 given "to the poor people of her father's Alms-house" seems to have been expended or lost to the Charity many years ago.

It does not appear that the amount actually payable under the Endowment Deed was ever taken into consideration. From the year 1786 until 1889 Sir William Oglander and his successors paid annually £35 17*s.* 2*d.* for the maintenance of the inmates *and kept the Alms-houses in repair.*

When the remaining third of Bilshay Farm was possessed by Vice-Admiral Sir Robert O'Brien Fitzroy on the death of Lady Louisa, widow of Sir Henry, the 7th Baronet; and last of the Oglander family, those fixed payments ceased and the Trustees of the Charity received only two-thirds of the net rent of the farm.

In 1901 the gross income of the Charity from *all sources* was £36 9*s.* 6*d.*, while the weekly payments to the inmates of the Alms-houses under the old scale, amounted to £35 17*s.* 2*d.*, leaving only 12*s.* 4*d.* for repairs to the farm buildings and the Alms-houses.

The Trustees were therefore obliged to reduce the weekly payments to the alms-women.

In January, 1903, the Charity Commissioners authorised the Trustees to sell within six calendar months that portion of Bilshay Farm belonging to the Charity for not less than

£700, "subject to the conditions that the purchaser shall undertake to pay the yearly rent charge of £6 payable to the poor of Symondsbury"

On April 7th, 1903, the lands and hereditaments were purchased by T. A. Colfox, Esq., of Bridport, for £700, with which amount the Trustees acquired 3 per cent. Metropolitan Consolidated Stock to the value of £706 2s. 7d.

The endowments of the Alms-house is not now sufficient to maintain six inmates for whom it was provided. At the present time there are only three persons residing there, one in each tenement, who receive a weekly allowance of 3s. 3d. The sum varies according to the amount at the disposal of the Trustees after deducting the necessary expenses connected with the upkeep of the Alms-houses.

By an Order of the Board of Charity Commissioners, sealed 7th February, 1899, Thomas Russell of Beridth, Beaminster, a Captain in her Majesty's Army (retired list), Robert Leigh, the younger, of Beaminster, Solicitor, and the Reverend Arthur Allen Leonard, Vicar of Beaminster, were appointed Trustees for the administration of the Charity.

SCHEDULE OF REAL PROPERTY.

Description.	Tenant, Persons Liable, or person in whose Name invested.	Gross Yearly Income. £ s. d.
"God's House" at Beaminster	Occupied by Almspeople	- - -
Garden at Beaminster, adjoining Almshouses	John Hull (yearly),	1 10 0
St. Helen's rents issuing out of lands as follows—	Edmund Dickinson, and Charles Bridgewater	
Dibberford Farm, at Broadwindsor	Williams	- 13 4
"Lovelaces" late "Sticklands," at Chilfrome	Harry Edmund Harris	- 3 0
Lower Wraxall Farm	William Gould Busk	1 6 8
Late "Staggs" Swan Hill at Cattistock	John Kenelm Digby Wingfield-Digby	- 13 4

PERSONAL PROPERTY. STOCK.

	Gross Income.
£3 per cent, Metropolitan Consolidated Stock, £706 2s. 7d.	
Vested in the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds.	£21 3 8

HILLARY'S CHARITY, COMMONLY CALLED THE
"GREAT GIFT."

"William Hillary of the parish of Minstead in the county of Southampton, Clerk, by his Will dated 27th October, 1712, gives to Rodney Troth, Gent., his Estate called Ernly Wood, cont^g Sixty-one Acres, situate at Benville in the parish of Corscombe for a term of 99 Years, to commence immediately from his death.

After the end of the term of 99 years, he devises his said estate called Ernly Wood to twelve of the poorest distressed Families of the Parish of Beamister for Ever. For the better settling the same he nominates William Milles of Meerhay, William Chilcott of the same Place, Lancelot Milles and Thomas Phelps, *alias* Hitt, of Beamister and their Heirs, Overseers and Assistants of his Will, willing and requiring them and their heirs and the survivor of them, together with the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of Beamister for the time being, or the Major part of them to receive the profits of the estate and to distribute the same to such 12 poor distressed Families of Beamister as to them shall seem most meet. He excepts those only who receive Parish Relief. Upon the death of either of the Trustees, the Surviving ones together with the Churchwardens and Overseers and the Major part of the 12 poor distressed Families, are to elect another in the Room of the Deceased Trustee, so that there always may be four Trustees.

This Will of Will^m Hillary was proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 2nd March, 1713.

The Farm called Ernly Wood is now (1781) held by M^r. John Arundell Hanne." [J. B. Russell's MS.]

The following extract is from *The Civil Division of the County of Dorset*, published in 1795—

"... Launcelot Mills survived William Mills, Chilcott and Phelps; and the trust is now vested in Launcelot Mills's heirs, there never having been any new trustees elected in the room of those dead. Annual produce £30."

Hutchins says, the will directs that the trustees "should receive the profits of the said estate, and yearly distribute the same equally on S^t Thomas's day"

In 1821 a suit in chancery against John Gill and Wife who were in possession of the Charity Estate and refused

to give same up, involved the Charity to the extent of £257.

In 1823 " Twelve Poor distressed Families of the Parish of Beaminster not receiving Parochial Relief " each received Two Pounds.

By an Order of the Charity Commissioners dated 29th August, 1863, the Vicar of Beaminster for the time being and his successors, and Samuel Symes Cox, John Furdge and William James Daniel were appointed Trustees to act in conjunction with the Churchwardens and Overseers.

At a meeting of the Beaminster Parish Council held on the 8th July, 1895, the following were, pursuant to the *Local Government Act*, 1894, Section 14 (2), elected Trustees of the Charity in place of the two Churchwardens and three Overseers of the parish—

Rev. A. A. Leonard, Vicar (*ex officio*) ; William Andress, Henry Gillingham, John Lane Kitson, John Rogers, Henry James Sherring.

The twelve poor persons selected by the Trustees now each receive money or payment in kind to the full value of Two Pounds. This amount has been the annual payment since 1904.

Prior to that date the yearly doles varied, from 1853 to 1879 from £4 to £5 ; in 1869 twelve needy parishioners received goods and cash to the value of £5 1s. 4d. apiece.

The word " families " used to be considered to denote parent and child, so that an old couple who were childless were treated as ineligible, while a parent with grown-up children able to support him or her was considered eligible. But of late years the Trustees have been in the habit of placing the most liberal construction on the term and have allowed single persons in needy circumstances to participate.

The following Rules have been made by the Trustees—

No application to be received from any person who—

- (1) has received Parochial relief within a year,
- (2) is under 30,
- (3) having no child dependent on him or her, is under 50,
- (4) has received the Gift within 10 years or
- (5) has not resided in the Parish either continuously for the last five years, or else for eight years in the aggregate after coming of age.

By a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners sealed July 4th, 1911, it is ordered that the future administration of the Charity be managed by—

One *ex-officio* Trustee, five Representative Trustees, and three Co-öptative Trustees.

The *ex-officio* Trustee shall be the Vicar for the time being of the Parish of Beaminster.

The first Representative Trustees under the Scheme—John Lane Kitson, Richard Edmund Scott Dunell, John Rogers, Richard Swatridge, and Alfred Vie Pine.

They shall be entitled to hold office until April 19th, 1913.

The future Representative Trustees shall be appointed by the Beaminster Parish Council for a term of four years.

The first Co-öptative Trustees under the Scheme—Fiennes Trotman, Richard Hine, Oliver Mullins Beament.

They shall be entitled to hold office until April 19th, 1914.

Every future Co-öptative Trustee shall be appointed for a term of five years by a resolution of the Trustees.

SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY.

Description.	Extent or Amount. <i>a. r. p.</i>	Tenant or Person in whose name vested	Gross Yearly Income.
Agricultural land at Corscombe	49 3 6	Richard Holloway, yearly	£25 0 0
Consols	£223 1 6	Official Trustees of Charitable Funds	£5 11 4

FRANCIS CHAMPION, *alias* CLARK.

BREAD CHARITY.

“ Francis Champion, *alias* Clark, of Beamister, butcher, by a nomination in writing dated 19th January, 1741, appointed his nephew Richard Dematt the younger, to be the lord's next tenant immediately after his decease, unto all that close called ‘Culverhays,’ containing by estimation two acres more or less, and situate in Beamister aforesaid, and within, and parcel of, the manors of Beamister Prima and Beamister Secunda, or one of them, upon trust nevertheless, and subject to the payment of Fifteen shillings at Christmas yearly, and every year from and after the decease of the said Francis Champion, *alias* Clark, unto the Churchwardens of the parish of Beamister aforesaid for the time being for ever, to purchase Thirty loaves

of bread, to be distributed by them to and amongst such poor of the said parish of Beamister as have no relief, as they the churchwardens for the time being shall think fit."

Extract from *The Civil Division of the County of Dorset*, 1795—

"The said close is let at £4 per ann. clear of all deductions, and is in the occupation of Thomas Bozie, as tenant thereof. Vested in Richard Tizzard and Robert his son, who were nominated by the said Richard Dematt. Annual produce 15/-"

In 1837 the Charity Commissioners appointed the Minister and Churchwardens of Beaminster to receive and discharge the charity moneys, there being at that time no existing Trustees. The land was in the possession of William Bishop Eveleigh of Beaminster.

The thirty sixpenny loaves of bread are still annually distributed at Christmas amongst thirty poor inhabitants of the parish, whether recipients of parochial relief or no. The two Trustees are now appointed by the Parish Council.

The land—held by the representatives of the late George Squire—is now part of a field known as "Short Close," formerly "Culverhayes."

KEATE'S BREAD CHARITY.

"Thomas Keate of Beminster, mercer, by a nomination in writing dated 10th May, 1709, appointed Bernard Newman of Beminster, sack-cloth maker, to be the lord's next tenant after his, the said Thomas Keate's, decease, unto one close of arable land called Wood's Water, and parcel of the Manor of Beminster Secunda within the parish of Beminster aforesaid; in trust that the said Bernard Newman and his executors, administrators, or assigns, should, out of the profits of the aforesaid close, the first Sunday in every calendar month for ever after his decease, buy eight loaves made of wheat each of them worth six pence, and the same to give and deliver unto eight of the poorest persons of the parish of Beminster aforesaid who shall have the greatest need thereof, that have not any relief or pay of the said parish; and, in case it should at any time happen that there be not money enough raised out of the profits of the aforesaid close to

pay for the said loaves, that then the same loaves shall not be given on such Sundays as shall happen to be in the time of harvest in such or any of the said years as the said profits shall not be sufficient to pay the same loaves, and not other-wise."

The following extract is from *The Civil Division of the County of Dorset*, 1795. "The said close lets for about £3 - 10 - 0 per ann. and is thrown into another close belonging to Thomas Cook, Esqr., the hedge between them being thrown down by John Cook, his late father, to whom Bernard Newman's wife surrendered this close. Vested in Thomas Cook, Esqr. Annual produce £3 : 10 : 0."

In 1836 the annual rent of the close, being about one acre, was £2 8s. *od.*

In 1837 the Charity Commissioners empowered "the resident Minister and the Church Wardens for the time being of the Parish of Beaminster, to receive the Rent Charge, and to apply the same according to the purposes of the charitable Donation (there being no existing Trustees or Persons legally qualified to receive and give an effectual Discharge for such Rent Charge) in the same manner as the Trustees of the said Charity would have been bound to do." The land then belonged to a Mrs. Carter, of Bridport.

1909. This Charity is now under the management of two Trustees, *viz.* Robert Leigh, Senior, sole original Trustee of the Charity, and Henry Crocker appointed by the Beaminster Parish Council.

The annual rent charge of £2 8s. *od.*, on a copyhold field—now pasture—known as "Woodswater," is paid in doles of six shillings—in lieu of loaves—to eight poor persons residing in the parish, who may or may not be in receipt of parochial relief.

The property is now held by the executors of the late George Squire.

PETER MEECH HOMES, *alias* PETER MEECH

PENSION CHARITY.

Founded by Will proved in the Principal Registry on the 8th June, 1909, for the Parishes of Beaminster and Poorstock.

The Charity is administered and managed by two *ex-*

officio Trustees and four Representative Trustees, under a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners.

Ex-officio Trustees: The Vicar for the time being of the Parish of Beaminster.

The Vicar for the time being of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Poorstock.

The Representative Trustees are appointed: Three by the Parish Council of Beaminster, One by the Parish Council of Poorstock.

Additional Trustees: Philip John Rutland, Herbert Valentine Game, Horace Thomas Pitt, the younger. . . . to hold office for life.

Number and Qualifications of Pensioners: The full number of Pensioners shall be six. They shall be poor persons of either sex, of good character, of whom five have resided in the Parish of Beaminster and one has resided in the Parish of Poorstock, for not less than five years in each case next preceding the time of appointment, who have not during the last of two such years received Poor-law relief other than medical relief, and who from age, ill-health, accident, or infirmity, or in the case of females on account of widowhood, are wholly or in part, unable to maintain themselves by their own exertions.

Stipends of Pensioners: There shall be paid to each Pensioner out of the income of the Charity . . . such a stipend, being at the rate of not less than Three shillings a week . . . In the case of a person appointed or qualified to be appointed as a Pensioner possessing or becoming possessed of a properly secured income from other sources or in receipt of assistance from relations or others, the Trustees may fix such a smaller stipend . . . as they think fit, so nevertheless that the total income of the recipient shall not be less than 3s. a week.

Pensioners shall be selected under the following conditions:

(1).—After full investigation of the character and circumstances of the applicants, and inquiry whether they have shewn reasonable providence, and whether and to what extent they may reasonably expect assistance from relations or others.

(2).—Where claims are equal preference shall be given to those applicants who have been longest resident in the interested Parish.

Terms of Pensions.—Each Pension shall be granted for a term of three years in the first instance, but may be prolonged by the Trustees, if they think fit, for a further period of not more than three years at each prolongation.

Removal of Pensioners. (1).—The following persons shall be removed from being Pensioners—

(a) Any Pensioner who receives Poor-law relief other than medical relief.

(b) Any Pensioner detained under lawful authority as a person suffering from mental disease.

(c) Any Pensioner becoming an inmate of any Poor-law Institution for the purpose of receiving medical relief.

(2).—If in the opinion of the Trustees any Pensioner is guilty of insobriety, or immoral or improper conduct, or is disqualified for retaining his or her appointment by having become entitled to a sufficient income from sources other than the Charity The Trustees may remove the Pensioner.

(3).—Upon the removal of any Pensioner the Trustees may proceed to appoint another Pensioner in his or her place.

(4).—In any case of such misconduct as aforesaid the Trustees may suspend the payment of the stipend to the Pensioner, either wholly or in part, during such time as they think fit.

No Trustee shall receive any remuneration at the cost of the Charity.

The funds or income of the Charity shall not in any case be applied in aid of any rates for the relief of the poor or other purposes in any Parish or place.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY.

Description.	Amount.	Persons in whose names invested.	Gross Yearly Income.
Consols	£2555 10 1	Official Trustees of Charitable Funds ..	£63 17 8
„	37 14 8	Do. Do.	0 18 10
	£2593 4 9		£64 16 6

Sealed by Order of the Board of Charity Commissioners for England and Wales the seventh day of October, 1910.

On January 5th, 1911, the Trustees elected the first six Pensioners of the Charity, and the weekly payment of three shillings and ninepence commenced the next day.

It appears by the Will of the Founder that he intended to demolish two copyhold dwelling-houses (one of which was his birthplace) situate in Church street, Beaminster, “and to erect upon the site thereof six cottage homes, five to be occupied by five poor male or female persons of the Parish of Beaminster, and the other by a poor male or female person of the Parish of Poorstock.” The cottages were to be known as the “Peter Meech Homes.”

From the rent of “Hitt’s Farm” they were to be kept in proper repair, and the surplus of the income applied for the benefit and relief of the inmates.

As the Will contained no provision for the erection of the “Cottage Homes” they were never built.

CLOTHING CLUB. DORCAS SOCIETY.

SOUP KITCHEN.

A Clothing Club was first formed in Beaminster in the year 1855.

The Vicar of that time, the Rev. A. C. Richings, established a band of District Visitors, whose duty it was to regularly visit the different parts of the parish, and keep him informed of any cases of sickness or distress.

To give the Visitors some reason for going every week to each cottage, it was decided in consideration of the poverty then prevailing, to start a Clothing Club to which poor people were invited to contribute a small weekly payment. Rules were drawn up, subscriptions asked for, and a Treasurer—Miss Susan Cox—appointed.

From a small beginning nine districts were formed with Visitors appointed for each, meeting once a month at the Vicar's house.

During the first year about £30 were collected from the cottagers, and nearly £18 subscriptions, of which £4 9s. *od.* was paid in premiums to the depositors.

The Districts were North Street, Clay Lane, Fleet Street with Prout Bridge, East Street, Church and Little Street, Newtown with Meerhay, Shortmoor, Gerrard's Green, and Hogshill Street.

The original Visitors were Mrs. Richings, Miss Keddle, Miss C. E. Keddle, Miss Eliza Barratt Dunn, the Misses Bouchier, Miss Emma Dunn, Miss Pine, Mrs. Coles, together with the Rev. J. B. Coles (Curate), and Mr. Gardner.* Some of the first subscribers were Lady Oglander, Lady Maria Oglander, Mrs. Cox (Manor House), Mrs. Peter Cox, Mrs. Bouchier, Dr. Keddle, Mr. Edward Fox, Mrs. Russell and Mr. Baruch Fox.

The following year there was a considerable increase both in the number of depositors and subscribers. Miss Susan Cox resigned the office of Treasurer and was succeeded by Miss Keddle.

In 1859 Clampits with St. Mary Well Street, also Half-acre were incorporated, and Prout Bridge became a separate district with new visitors, *viz.* Mrs. Codd, Miss F. S.

* Mr. Gardner was appointed "District Visitor" for Gerrard's Green, as in those early days of the Club this part of the parish was not considered sufficiently civilized for a lady to undertake the duties.

Daniel, Miss Georgina Cox, Miss Daniel, Miss A. Daniel and Miss M. A. Keddle.

According to the rules revised in 1856, no person was permitted to belong to the Society whose weekly earnings exceeded on an average twelve shillings a week.*

In 1858 it was decreed " That the clothing be of a useful kind, which it is desirable should be brought to the National Schoolroom for inspection on the 3rd Monday in December at 2 o'clock."

The Sunday School Clothing Club which had been for some time established, was in 1859 amalgamated with the Adult Club, and managed under the same rules, the premiums being given from the Sunday School funds, and so continues.

Owing to the cottagers now earning much higher wages there is less need of the charity than fifty years ago when clothing was more expensive.

Adult Club. According to the annual report of 1869 there were 316 depositors who paid into the club £82 11s. 10d. The subscriptions for the year amounted to £13 13s. 0d. Premium given £16 13s. 6d.

The same year in the *Sunday School Club* there were 123 depositors who paid in £26 7s. 0d. Premium given £5 14s. 0d. from Sunday School Funds.

In 1912 there were 181 depositors in the Adult Club, the subscriptions amounted to £13 19s. 0d. and the deposits to £75 6s. 0d. Premium given £11 15s. 0d. In the Sunday School Club 133 depositors who paid £35 11s. 0d., the Premium given from the Sunday School Funds was £10 1s. 3d.

Miss Jane S. Keddle, who has acted as Treasurer for fifty-nine years and still takes a keen interest in the Club, has kindly furnished the writer with many of the foregoing notes.

* * * * *

The Beaminster Dorcas Society was established October, 1867, for the sale of garments and bed-clothes to deserving poor of the parish.

The lady workers of the Society held a monthly assembly for the purpose of making the clothing, which was afterwards sold at half price cost. Working subscribers of

* Now 16s.

five shillings annually to the funds were entitled to dispose of articles to the value of 25s., while ordinary subscribers were allotted clothing equal in value to double the amount of their donations.

In 1868 the subscriptions amounted to £18 12s. 5d., number of garments sold 196.

During 1894 there were 84 sheets, 41 blankets, 10 counterpanes and 21 garments disposed of.

Chiefly on account of a considerable decrease in the number of subscribers, the Society came to an end in 1896.

* * * * *

The Beaminster "Soup Kitchen" was also founded about the year 1867, and during the twenty-five years of its existence distributed soup at the nominal charge of one penny per quart, in severe winters.

The subscriptions for the year 1871* amounted to £21 16s. 0d., and payments for soup £13 19s. 4½d.

From the annual report, 1870-1, we learn that the materials used consisted of 369lbs. of beef and pork; 31 bushels 3½ pecks peas; 40 loaves; 1½ bushels best flour; 67½lbs. salt; 6lbs. 9ozs. pepper; 104lbs onions. Eighteen sales of soup were made from December 30th, 1870, to March 3rd, 1871, of 800gals. 3qts. ½pt. to 1429 housekeepers.

EXTINCT CHARITIES.

Henry Hillary gave by his Will "the full sum of £40 to be employed for the Benefit of the Poore of Beaminster the Stock to be kept whole."

The following Memorandum is from one of the Overseer's Books—

"Mem. the 4th day of Julie 1642 there was deliv^d into the handes of Anselme Wall wth the consent of many of the p^{ri}shionrs the fferty pownds w^{ch} was given by Henry Hillary deceased to remaine as a stock for the benefit of the poore for e^{vr} and security given by the said Anselme by way of Surrender for the Repay^{mt} thereof at any tyme hereafter uppon three months warning to be thereof given unto him.

Witness—John Strode."

* Among Mr. Gardner's poems is one entitled "The Soup Kitchen, 1871."

Nothing is now known of this or the following bequests—

“ The 13th May, 1649—Wee Henry Paviott, John Locke, Ralph Coxe & William Fowler did deliver unto John Pavyott, William Milles, Samuell Hallett & Nath Leaves chosen overseeres for the poore this yeare following the sune of five pounds of lawfull mony of England being formerly given to the p̃rish of Beamister by S^r John Strood, knight, to be ymployed and lent to poore tradesmen upon sufficient security, the receipt of w̃ch five poundes we the said overseeres doe acknowledge and are to keepe the stocke whole to be delivered unto the next Overseeres.

Witnes our handes the day abovesaide being subscribed.”

John Paviot.

William Milles.

[Extract from Overseers' Book].

Samuel Hallett.

Nathaniel Leaves.

Richard Hillary of Buckham in Beaminster parish, yeoman, by will dated 1629, left £10 to the poor of Beaminster “ to be kept in the poore man's boxe,” and lent out on security.

Chapter VII.

BEAMINSTER AND ITS "WORTHINESS."

(BY A. M. BROADLEY.)



IN the parish register of St. Mary's Church, under the date 20th September, 1635, occurs the following baptismal entry—"Thomas, son of Thomas Spratt, clerke." In the Beaminster Poor Book mention is thus made of Thomas Spratt the elder :—

1636-7. Feb. xiith to Mr. Spratt for Hugh Stroade to helpe to s. d.
by h^m a Jerkine, there being nott enough money left 03 - 00

The Overseers' Accounts for the year 1640 are signed by Thomas Spratte, Minister.

At this time, and for long after, the vicarages of Netherbury and Beaminster were united, but the name of Spratt does not occur in the lists given by Hutchins of the incumbents of these parishes. It is therefore probable that between 1636 and 1641 he was Curate-in-charge of Beaminster. Until the discovery of the above-named baptismal entry, the authorities at Wadham College, amongst the worthies of which Bishop Spratt holds high rank, were in doubt as to whether he was born in Dorset or Devon. In the biography of Bishop Spratt, contributed to the *Dictionary of National Biography*,* Mr. W. P. Courtney (who spells the name with one "t") calls attention to the fact that in his "Sermon before the Natives of Dorset" (for there was a Society of Dorset Men in London at the end of the seventeenth century as well as at the beginning of the twentieth) Spratt said that he was the son of Thomas Spratt, minister of Beaminster, who is said to have married a daughter of

* Vol. LIII, pp. 419-424.



THOMAS SPRATT, D.D.

Bishop of Rochester and Dean of Westminster.

Born at Beaminster, 1635.

Mr. Strode of Parnham.* The elder Spratt, in 1646, was sequestrator of the parish of St. Alphege, Greenwich, and six years later was in charge of Talaton, Devonshire. The future Bishop of Rochester, according to his own statement, received the rudiments of education "at a little school by the churchyard side." This description coincides with the position of the Beaminster Free School subsequently endowed by the liberality of Frances Tucker.†

On 12th November, 1651, Thomas Spratt matriculated at Wadham College, Oxford, then a seat of scientific research, as well as of classical learning. He was elected a Scholar some ten months later, and graduated B.A., 25th June, 1654, taking the degree of M.A. just three years later. From 30th June, 1657, till 24th March, 1670, when he resigned he held a Wadham fellowship. At this time the Master of Wadham was the learned and progressive Dr. John Wilkins, the pioneer of aerial navigation. The college was the meeting-place of Seth Ward, Christopher Wren and Ralph Bathurst, from whose gatherings sprang the Royal Society. Close association with such men as these undoubtedly exercised considerable influence on the career of this distinguished Beaminsterian who, in 1659, like Dryden and Waller, celebrated the virtues of Oliver Cromwell in somewhat turgid verse. At the Restoration, Spratt, like many of his contemporaries, hastened to worship the rising sun, and having taken orders, was, by the influence of Cowley, appointed chaplain to the Duke of Buckingham. His first preferment was to a stall at Lincoln, and when, three years later, King Charles II visited Wadham, it was Mr. Spratt who was chosen "to speak the speech." His controversy with de Sorbière and his *History of the Royal Society* much increased his reputation both as a writer and scientist. Cowley highly praised the latter, while Dr. Johnson declares that some of Spratt's polemical pamphlets are likely to live by reason of their high sentiment and elegance of diction although written upon subjects "flux and transitory." In 1676 (when just over forty) he was appointed one of the King's chaplains, and a little later, curate and lecturer of St. Margaret's, Westminster. In the autumn of 1679 John Evelyn went to

* John Strode, Kt. ob.: 1642, aged 81. Married Anne, d. of William Chaldecot of Quarrelston and widow of Robert Bingham. After her death he married Anne, eldest daughter of John Wyndham, of Orchard.

† See Chapter VI.

hear Spratt preach. The Puritan of 1659 was now a high-churchman and upholder of the divine right of kings. Speaking of the sermon he heard Evelyn says that Dr. Spratt's "talent was a great memory, never making use of notes, a readiness of expression in a most pure and plain style of words, full of matter, easily delivered."

Four years later (21st September, 1683) Thomas Spratt was installed in the deanery of Worcester, and in the following year he was consecrated Bishop of Rochester. He held both these appointments until his death on 20th May, 1713. He is buried in Westminster Abbey, on the south side of the Chapel of St. Nicholas. Portraits of Spratt by Lely, Loggan and Dahl are in existence, and are carefully preserved at Wadham College, Westminster and Rochester. Between 1683 and 1713 Spratt was either directly or indirectly concerned with a good many ecclesiastical controversies, and once or twice he narrowly escaped falling a victim to the machinations of his enemies, for he lived in an age of political plots and counterplots. Mr. Courtney alludes to several of these conspiracies, and the story of Spratt's discovery of the intrigue commonly known as the Flower-pot Plot has been very graphically told by a modern writer.* While a Bishop Dr. Spratt continued to court the Muse, and the complete MSS. of a poem entitled "The Plague of Athens which happen'd in y^e 2^d year of the Peloponesian War, First described in Greek by Thucidides—Then in Latin by Lucretius, since attempted in English by Thomas, now Lord Bishop of Rochester," with a lengthy dedication to "my worthy and learned friend Dr. Walter Pope, late Proctor of y^e University of Oxford," is in the collection of the present writer, who also owns several of the witty and pungent letters of this distinguished son of Beaminster.

* * * * *

In the early spring of the year 1715 there came to the modest school-house "by the churchyard side" (a portion of which is still tenantable in 1914) a young clergyman of the name of Samuel Hood, a native of Mosterton, a Dorset village on the northern side of Horn Hill, where his ancestors had flourished ever since the reign of Henry VIII.

* *The Belts of Wortham*, by Katherine Doughty. John Lane, 1912, pp. 144, *et seq.*

The seminary in which Spratt had "learned the rudiments" three-quarters of a century before, had, in the interval, been satisfactorily endowed by the bounty of Mrs. Frances Tucker, and was now known as "Tucker's School." When Samuel Hood migrated to Beaminster he was twenty-five, and four years after he began to enjoy his modest stipend of £20 per annum, almost to a day, he was, according to the Yetminster register married to "Mrs. Mary Hoskins of Beaminster." Mary Hoskins belonged to an ancient Beaminster family, whose pedigree is given in Hutchins' *History of Dorset*. On June 2nd, 1721, a daughter born to them at the School-house received the name of Ann. At Michaelmas, 1723, Samuel Hood resigned his post as Schoolmaster, and together with his family went to Butleigh, near Glastonbury, to which benefice he had been appointed and here he remained until his death in 1777. During the latter part of his career he was given the vicarage of Thorncombe and a prebendal stall in Wells Cathedral.

In the parish register of Butleigh occur the following entries—"24 Jan. 1725 baptized Samuel, son of Samuel and Mary Hood, born 12 Dec: 1724," and "29 Jan: 1727 baptized Alexander, son of Samuel and Mary Hood, born 2 Dec: 1726." Some years later the sons of the Vicar of Butleigh entered the Navy under the auspices of James Grenville and William Pitt, both of whom were friends of Samuel Hood. Samuel Hood eventually became Viscount Hood, while the eminent services to the State of his younger brother were rewarded with the title of Viscount Bridport. In a certain sense they are both Beaminster worthies, but having been born "across the border" it is unnecessary to recall their sufficiently well-known biographies. Another branch of the Hoods settled early in the eighteenth century on the farm known as Kingsland in Netherbury. In 1763, at any rate, we know that the head of that branch of the Hoods was Samuel Hood, a retired Purser of the Royal Navy. On May 25th of that year a son of Samuel Hood (born on 6th May) was baptized at Netherbury Church by the same name as his father. Two elder sons of Samuel Hood, *viz.* Arthur and Alexander (born respectively in 1754 and 1758) had been christened at Mosterton, which, with Little Windsor, shared the distinction of being the aboriginal home of the Hood family. Arthur, Alexander and Samuel Hood (like their kinsmen Samuel and

Alexander Hood of Butleigh) became sailors. The eldest of these perished by shipwreck ; Alexander Hood of Netherbury died of the wounds received by him on 21st April, 1798, while commanding H.M.S. *Mars* in her famous duel with the French ship *L'Hercule* ; and Samuel Hood, who commanded H.M.S. *Zealous* at the Battle of the Nile with conspicuous gallantry and proved himself to be one of Nelson's bravest and most successful captains lived till 1814, when he died at Madras while holding the position of naval Commander-in-Chief in the East Indies. As at the time they resided at Netherbury, that vicarage was united to Beaminster, these three gallant sailors may be considered, to some extent at least, to be Beaminster worthies, and it is by no means an infelicitous coincidence that in the year these pages will see the light, a mural brass in their memory will be placed in the beautiful church in which, just a century-and-a-half ago, the brave seaman who won the proud device of " *Zealous* " for his descendants was baptized.

* * * * *

In the *European Magazine* for August 1st, 1796, is a portrait of Mr. Samuel Hearne, who is described as " late Chief of Prince of Wales's Fort, Hudson's Bay." It seems that the mother of Samuel Hearne was a native of Beaminster, to which place she retired on the death, in 1748, of her husband the Secretary to the London-bridge Water Works, for the purpose of educating her children. Hearne must have become a pupil at Tucker's School somewhere about 1753, but after remaining there a few years he was taken to Portsmouth and entrusted to the care of Captain Samuel Hood, afterwards Viscount Hood. This was in 1756, and after creditable service as midshipman entered the service of the Hudson's Bay Company, ultimately becoming their Commander-in-Chief, a position which he occupied until 1782. Samuel Hearne died in November, 1792. He seems to have been a man of great courage, and was entrusted by the Company with the conduct of an expedition fitted out with the object of discovering the North-West Passage. Of this enterprise Hearne left a very interesting journal which was not published until three years after his death.

A copy of Samuel Hearne's *Journey for the Discovery of the N.W. Passage* (1795) is now worth about £7 10s. 0d.



VICE-ADMIRAL SIR SAMUEL HOOD, K.B.

Born at Kingsland, Netherbury,
Nov. 27th, 1762.

In the following year an octavo edition of the quarto of 1795 appeared in Dublin. This is at present worth from 18s. to £1.

* * * * *

In the annals of English Poetry Beaminster is worthily represented by the gifted, but short-lived Thomas Russell [1762-1788], of whom Mr. Thomas Seccombe gives a brief account in the *Dictionary of National Biography*.* Thomas Russell was the son of John and Virtue Russell, and was baptized in Beaminster Church on March 2nd, 1762. His brother John Banger Russell has left a valuable MS. record of local history during the latter half of the eighteenth century, of which Hutchins made good use. The father of Thomas and John Banger Russell was a well-to-do attorney, and his mother belonged to the Shaftesbury family of Brickle.

Thomas Russell was first educated either at Bridport or Beaminster, but in 1777, when in his fifteenth year he was entered at Winchester as a commoner and very soon rose to be senior boy of the school, gaining medals both for Latin verse and essay. In 1780 he was elected to New College, Oxford, being second on the roll. He graduated B.A. in October, 1784, was chosen Fellow of his College and took Orders in the following year. He began in 1782 to contribute both prose and verse to *The Gentleman's Magazine*, but signs of phthisis appeared, and what promised to be a career of singular brilliancy and usefulness was cut short by his untimely death at Bristol Hotwells on July 31st, 1788. He was a few days later buried at Powerstock, a picturesque village amongst the Dorset hills, in the shadow of the great prehistoric camp of Eggardon, some few miles to the south-east of his birthplace. On a tombstone in the churchyard is the following inscription :

" In Memory of the Rev. Thomas Russell A.B.
Fellow of the New College in Oxford, in whose
person the most eminent literary talents with
a peculiar Elegance of Manners were united.
He died 31 July 1788
Aged 26 years."

* Vol XLIX, pp. 472-3.

After recording some of these facts Mr. Thomas Seccombe writes thus of Thomas Russell—

“ In 1789 appeared ‘Sonnets and Miscellaneous Poems’ by the late Thomas Russell, Fellow of New College,’ Oxford, sm. 4to.; these were dedicated to Warton by the editor, William Howley, afterwards archbishop of Canterbury. A fine scholarly taste is exhibited in the versions from Petrarch, Camoens and Weisse, but the most noteworthy feature of the little volume is the excellence of Russell’s sonnets. Together with William Lisle Bowles, a fellow-Wykehamist of kindred sympathies, he may claim an important place in the revival of the sonnet in England. Wordsworth not only wrote with warm appreciation of Russell’s genius as a sonneteer (cf. *Prose Works*, ed. Grosart, 1876, iii, 333) but in his sonnet ‘Iona (upon landing)’ he adopted from Russell, as conveying his feeling better than any words of his own could do (*Poetical Works*, 1869, p. 356) the four concluding lines—

And ‘hopes, perhaps more heavenly bright than thine,
A grace by thee unsought and unpossess,
A faith more fixed, a rapture more divine
Shall gild their passage to eternal rest.’

Another sonnet of Russell’s seems to have suggested an exquisite passage in Byron’s ‘O snatch’d away in beauty’s bloom;’ and of a third, ‘supposed to be written at Lemnos,’ Landor wrote that it alone authorised Russell to join the shades of Sophocles and Euripides. Coleridge, Cary, and Bowles applaud this ‘Miltonic’ sonnet, which find a place in the anthologies of Dyce, Capel Lofft, Tomlinson, Main, Hall Caine, and William Sharp. Southey in his ‘Vision of Judgment’ associated Russell with Chatterton and Bampfylde among the young spirits whom the muses ‘marked for themselves at birth and with dew from Castalia sprinkled.’ He lacked the originality of genius, but, says Cary, ‘his ear was tuned to the harmonies of Spenser, Milton, and Dryden, and fragments of their sounds he gives us back as from an echo, but so combined as to make a sweet music of his own.’ ”

* * * * *

The literary taste and studious habits of Thomas Russell were largely shared by his elder brother John Banger,

who owed his second name to the patronymic of his maternal grandmother. John Banger Russell was born at Beaminster on 5th May, 1760. At an early age he was sent to the then famous grammar-school at Milton Abbas, where, during seven years he remained under the care of the Rev. John Wood. In 1776 he was articled to his father, John Russell,* and six years later, was, in due course, admitted an attorney in the Court of King's Bench. On the last day of 1782 he married Mary Cox, the daughter of Daniel Cox, a merchant of Beaminster. In the summer of 1784 John Banger Russell gave evidence before a joint committee of both Houses of Parliament in strong opposition to Lord Milton's bill sanctioning the removal of the Milton Abbas grammar-school to Dorchester. To his father's extensive practice John Banger Russell eventually succeeded. In his moments of leisure he collected books, and compiled a journal full of interesting and often important local information. "Of all studies," he wrote, "I like that of Antiquity the most With regards to Politics I am a friend to Monarchy thinking it the best kind of Government, Rebellions I abhor I do not agree with every one in Religious opinions but have charity for all." To an appreciable extent he sympathized with the advanced views of Thomas Hollis, of Corscombe, the "patriot republican," who, according to his express wish, was buried at some unknown and unmarked spot in one of the fields of Urless Farm. Hollis, however, died in 1774, when Russell was still busy with his Latin Grammar at Milton. Long after he thus described the enthusiastic editor of Algernon Sidney's polemical essays—

"A Gentleman possessed of very valuable Accomplishment. In sentiment a Republican, he regarded all mankind as his equals; nor were the lowest members of society considered as unworthy of his Regard. He encouraged every good work of public utility, his Charity was unbounded, not confined to any particular Sect or Party, for he was the same good man to all. He had the most exalted notions of Religion, and endeavoured to promote the same in others. Every scheme for propagating Learning and true Knowledge not only met with his approbation but was greatly supported by him, as he employed the greater part of his Income and of his time, in making others as happy and as knowing as himself To give his Character in a few words, he was a firm Friend to mankind in general, a zealous supporter of Religion and Liberty and universally beloved by all that knew him."

* Founder of the existing firm of Kitson & Trotman.

Russell lived all through the turmoil of the Napoleonic Wars, dying at Beaminster at the age of 67 on 25th May, 1827. Like his brother the poet he is buried at Poorstock, but a mural tablet in the north aisle of St. Mary's, Beaminster, commemorates his civic and social virtues. The frequent references of Mr. Richard Hine to the Russell MSS. show the practical value of his researches and observations, and certainly make good his claim to a high place in the muster-roll of Beaminster worthies.

* * * * *


The Strodes and the Oglanders, in turn possessors of Parnham Manor, the great house of Beaminster, played an important part in the history of the town and county during many centuries. They will be spoken of in the chapter dealing with the manor itself. Beaminster had its share in the glories and the anxieties of the Napoleonic War. It can also claim the distinction of being the birth-place of the last surviving eye-witness of the Battle of the Giants,* the centenary of which is now fast approaching. There was more than one Beaminster man in the ranks of those who fought bravely for their King and Country at Waterloo on the "ever-glorious eighteenth June," 1815.

* See Chapter XI.

Chapter VIII.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES AND FREEMASONRY.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

 IN the year 1762 a Friendly Society was established for parishioners of the town and parish of Beamister. The following extracts are from an original copy of the *Fundamental Articles* in the writer's possession.

A
Friendly Society
Begun In The
Town and Parish of Beamister
In the County of Dorset
The 24th Day of May in the Year of Our Lord
1762
And continued to the Year 1796.

Jn^o Dimmat, Son of John.
Admitted 29th Day of August, 1796.

By us— John Brinson }
Jule Chub } *Stewards.*

Beamister
Printed by W. Oliver, in the Market-Place.

* * * * *

FUNDAMENTAL ARTICLES.

Agreed upon between such of the Town and Parish of Beamister, as have voluntarily entered in the said Society, for their mutual welfare and advantage.

I.—Any parishioner of the town and parish of Beamister, who shall be an inhabitant there six months before he offers may be ad-

mitted into the society on his first appearing, or sending to have his name entered at the society's club-room, six weeks before he is voted for ; and if he then does not send or come, to be for ever excluded from coming into the society ; & every member . . . shall pay 3s. entrance money to the stock, and advance one shilling for his pay, provided such Person exceed not the age of thirty years

II.—That the place of meeting shall be at such an Inn in Beamister as the majority of the members . . shall think fit ; where a box shall be kept with three locks & three keys, for the security of the papers ; and the Stewards for the time being shall have a key each, and the clerk shall have the other ; and if either of them shall happen to lose the same he shall forfeit and pay one shilling to the stock.

III.—The meetings to be held every Monday six weeks, from 8 till 10 o'clock in the evening

IV.—That the times appointed for chusing stewards shall be always on the second club-night

V.—That for the better preservation of good manners, and the extirpation of prophaneness, not only in the club-room, but every room in the house where a steward or stewards shall be, not only during the appointed Hours of meeting, but all the night after, as long as one steward remains, or shall be in any one of the rooms ; if any member of this society shall be guilty of swearing, cursing, or prophanely speaking, in any of the rooms before-mentioned, or shall use any opprobrious language to any member . . . or shall come into the club-room intoxicated with liquor, or shall game at any sort of game or play, or shall lay any wager, or offer to lay any wager, or shall raise any discourse or dispute to hurt the character of any member . . . or shall cause any quarrel . . . in any part of the house where a steward is he shall for every such offence forfeit and pay three-pence

VI.—That if it shall please God, that any member . . . shall be rendered by sickness or accident, incapable of working, . . . for the space of one week . . . he shall receive . . . six shillings per week, for one month, during such inability of not being able to do his work . . ; and also such sick persons shall receive four shillings per week during his indisposition afterwards, provided he shall have been a member . . . eighteen kalender months . . . and that his disorder proceeds not from . . . duelling of any sort, (the necessity of self defence excepted) wrestling, backsword, running, jumping, ringing of bells, shooting, or any other unnecessary exercise. And the stewards . . . shall visit such sick member, once a week at least, provided he lies not under a disease that might be prejudicial to the stewards, as the small pox, infectious or malignant fevers, &c., and in that case they shall send the said six shillings, or four shillings, by the hands of some trusty messenger, who shall pay him his weekly allowance

VII.—On the death of any member, the sum of three pounds, shall be paid . . . towards the funeral expenses . . . provided he has been a member . . . for the space of three years, . . . provided also that no sum shall be paid towards the funeral expenses of any member, who either lays violent hands on himself, or falls by the hands of public justice, unless proved a lunatic by the coroner's inquisition. . . . At the death of such member who shall be entitled to the three pounds, . every member shall pay three-pence to the common stock or fund.

VIII.—That every member at each club-meeting who shall attend, shall have a two-penny ticket delivered to him by the stewards out of the club-box, to spend at the club-house; . . . and if any member shall call for more liquor than the value of his two-penny ticket, he shall pay for it out of his own pocket.

IX.—There shall be a clerk chosen annually—who shall keep the accounts, . . . and he shall have one shilling and six-pence a night, for his attendance

X.—If any member shall be suspected to feign himself sick or lame . . . he shall for ever after be excluded.

XIII.—That if any member . . . shall become a prisoner for debt, he shall not be obliged to pay one shilling and two-pence every six weeks during his imprisonment; . . . but as soon as he is free he shall be on the society roll as before, and shall not be expelled; but if he be imprisoned for felony and convicted thereof, he shall thenceforth be expelled

XIV.—If any member refuse to keep silence after the steward or stewards have desired him three times, he shall forfeit three-pence to the fund, and if the steward or stewards omit to call silence, or refuse so to do, he or they shall forfeit six-pence each.

XVI.—That the master of the house shall suffer no stranger . . . to come into the club-room during the club-hours, without the stewards leave, upon the forfeiture of six-pence. . . . And if any member introduces a stranger into the club-room in club-hours, without the consent of the stewards, he shall forfeit six-pence, & every stranger that is admitted shall spend four-pence at the club-house.

XVIII.—When any member . . . shall arrive at the age of sixty-three years; he shall then be paid . . . two shillings a week; until he shall be seventy years of age; and from thence forward . . . two shillings and six-pence a week, during his natural life, unless he shall have the misfortune to break a limb, or shall be bed-ridden; . . . in that case he is then to be paid six shillings a week, for one month, and four shillings a week afterwards, till he is able to walk about, and then to have 2s. or 2s. 6d. a week as before-mentioned.

XXI.—That there shall be an annual dinner or entertainment always provided for the said society, on the Friday next before Trinity Sunday, when each member then present shall pay one shilling, and the rest of the cost and expenses thereof shall be paid out of the stock; at which feast every member when convened shall walk two and two to Beamister church, where a sermon shall be preached by the Vicar or Curate of the parish, which Vicar or Curate shall receive out of the stock his demand (not exceeding half a guinea) for preaching the same, and every member that attends at the feast shall be at the club-house at ten o'clock, in the forenoon, when they will be called over and that member who does not appear and answer to his name, and walk in his place, towards the church, at the time the clerk is calling them, must walk at the place the clerk is then calling them at the time he comes: and if they do not answer their names, before they go to church, they shall forfeit three-pence to the stock, (the musicians, singers and ringers excepted) and if any member or members go out of their places, and walk before any other member which shall be before, he or they on the club-roll shall forfeit one shilling; and in the afternoon at the time of the stewards calling the members together to walk, which time shall be between the hours of three & six

o'clock, every member which shall have dined there shall walk in their places as they are called over as on the club-roll, every member not answering their names when called shall forfeit three-pence, and every member not walking regularly in their proper places, or making or encouraging any riot shall forfeit for every such action six-pence, (musicians and ringers only excepted) no member shall introduce any man, woman or child, into the club-room on the feast day 'till after the church clock has struck eleven at night except he forfeit one shilling for each person he introduces, and the stewards shall demand the same of them before they are so admitted.

XXII.—At the club-meeting preceding the annual feast the clerk and stewards for the time being shall appoint one evening before the feast, to meet at the club-house before seven o'clock, when the master or mistress of the house shall in their presence draw a small quantity of beer from a vessel in the cellar, when the clerk and stewards shall taste the beer so drawn, and if they do not approve of it as fit to be drank at the feast, they shall then proceed to taste the beer contained in other vessels, until they find such beer as the quality of the same shall be approved of by the said clerk and stewards, and what quantity they think will be sufficient for the members at the feast day, they shall then examine the vessels and wherever their appears to be a place in it that have been bored, they shall over that and every other such place affix their seal in such a manner as not to admit of the cork, bung, or peg to be drawn, without breaking or defacing the seal and the same method shall be observed in regard to the cyder, the beer and cyder so approved of shall be reserved for the club-feast, and the price to be paid for such beer and cyder shall be equal and the same as is paid currently for those liquors at other public houses, in Beamister; at the same time the clerk and stewards so attending shall be allowed two shillings and six-pence out of the club-stock to spend at the same time, the clerk or any steward not attending at the time appointed, or refusing to act as required by this article, shall forfeit one shilling to the club-stock, . . . or be excluded, no excuse to be admitted except the person is sick and in pay, or more than two miles out of town on necessary business, also this society cannot hold their meetings at any house unless the master or mistress of such house shall fully agree to and comply with these terms.

XXIII.—If any member . . . shall go as volunteer or substitute in the service of the militia, or regulars as a soldier, or enter on board any of his majesty's or private ships of war, he shall be off the society's books . . . so long as he continues in such service until he leaves it and proves himself found, then to be on the society's books as before, this article not to extend to any person who shall be drawn in the militia or press'd on board his majesty's ships of war.

XXIV.—Should any member . . . by reason of any misfortune be obliged to go into the work-house in this or any other town . . . provided he does not go in whilst he is entitled to the six shillings per week, his pay of four shillings per week, so long as he continues ill shall be paid to his wife or family if out of the work-house . . .

XXVII.—Every member at his admittance into this society shall have gratis, for his own satisfaction, a copy of these printed articles, . . and if he loses the same; he shall pay six-pence for another out of his own pocket.

FINIS.

During the early part of the eighteenth century a large number of Friendly Societies commonly called "Clubs" sprang into existence, their object being the relief of the poor, independent of poor rates.

Writing about the year 1780 J. B. Russell says—

"Unfortunately it has happened that by the Perverseness & Irregularity of the Members few if any of them have been suffered to arrive at maturity, but they have been suddenly dissolved and their Stock divided before any certain Calculation could be formed of what degree of Perfection such Societies are capable of attaining. When these Societies have been instituted one of their Rules commonly is that the Majority shall at any time have Power to alter the Articles of their Regulation & even to break up the Community, & as amongst the Lower orders of the People of which these Clubs are generally composed, the greater Part are very careless & improvident, the Benefits which each member might have rece^d from the Society are in one Moment annihilated. In the place of the old Clubs new ones have been established on the same faulty Principles & have been as speedily dissolved. It often happens that the Capitals of the sev^l Societys being precluded from all legal security, are seldom put out at Interest, but are kept in their Chests, without any Increase, & that when the Capitals are put out at Interest insufficient Security is often taken & the money lost. Many Clubs have been ruined in these various ways & not one may be said to be in a flourishing Condition.

A Society was established in the Town of Beamister in the year 1762. Immediately on its Establishemnt it was patronized by the Gent: of the Town & I believe it has rec^d from their Benefactions 30*l* or 40*l*. The Rules of the Club seem to have been borrowed from some One which had existed before that Time, but various Articles have from Time to Time been added, by means of which the Society has received great Advantages. The Rules for y^e Regulation of Friendly Societies are always printed, and are in y^e Hands of every One who is at all curious on the Subject.

The Advantages which the Kingdom may receive from these Communities are so very apparent that Premiums have been given to some of them by the 'Society for the Encouragement of Arts & Manufactures.'

The Beamister Club would have attained a still higher Degree of Perfection than it has now done, if the late Clerk, who was not properly qualified for the Business, had not introduced a Variety of Articles which tended to sap the Foundations of the Society. These Articles were indeed introduced with no bad Design, but proceeded only from the Ignorance & Want of Skill of the Proposer.

Every Member previous to his Admission is ballotted for by a select Committee, & it often happens that when a Person is remarkable for Laziness or vicious Habits, he is not permitted to enter into the Society. This Regulation may be pronounced to be very good & has certainly been the means of preserving the Club.

If any Time a Person shall cheat the Club by a feigned Sickness & shall be convicted by a Majority of Voices, he is for ever excluded.

After the Ballot, if the Person proposed is successfull, he pays into the Common Stock for his Admission 2*s*. 6*d*. & during his Continuance

in the Society he contributes every Six Weeks 1s. & moreover spends 2d. in Liquor at the Inn where the Meetings are held. But if a Member be absent & employs another Person to pay for him, the 2d. which he would have been obliged to spend at the Inn is put into the Box for the Benefit of the Club. Seldom or ever more than two-thirds of the whole Community attend, so that the advantages which the Society derives from these Extra Contributions are very considerable . . . At present the Society consists of 248 persons. The Stock is disposed of as follows, viz.—

On the Bridport Turnpike 200*l*. at 4*l*. 10s. per Cent.

In the 4 per Cent. Consols 900*l*.

One of the greatest Expenses attending these Clubs is the Annual Feast but perhaps it wo^d be a difficult matter to keep the Society tog without a Festivity of this kind, & indeed these annual Meetings have Advantages, as it makes the Members provide themselves with a decent Garb which they (many of them) wo^d not do, if they were not to appear in public on this Occasion.

The Annual Entertainment costs about 24*l*.

The Clerk's yearly Salary for keeping the Accounts is 18s."

Nearly all the records of the Club prior to the middle of the last century have disappeared, but tradition says that at one time the Society numbered as many as *eight hundred* members, this was no doubt during the height of its prosperity, when there were but few village clubs in this district.*

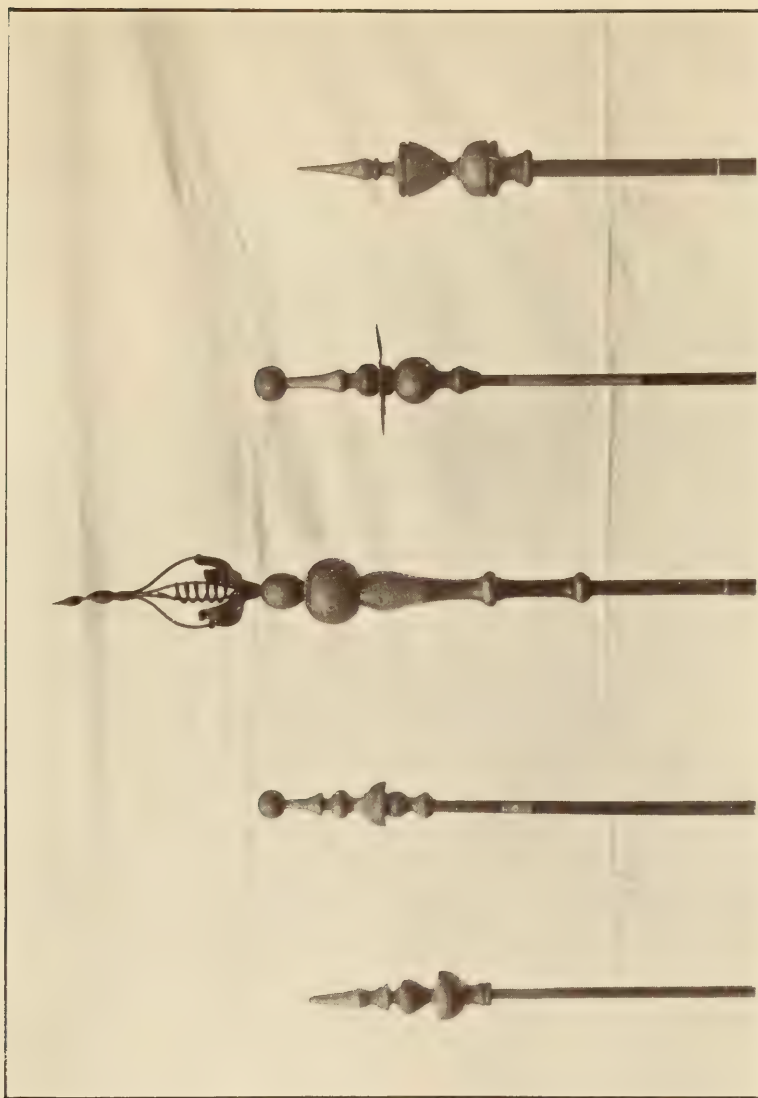
About the year 1825, the Society's rules were amended and reprinted. Article III required that "A select Committee be appointed, to consist of the Clerk for the time being, and twelve Members who shall stand for one year Any Committee Man who does not attend at a general or any other meeting, shall forfeit sixpence, unless prevented by sickness, or out of town Each Committee Man to receive a pint of beer *extra* at every meeting he is present."

In 1852 the Club was re-established and the rules revised. Article VI required that "an Annual Meeting of the Honorary Subscribers and Members be held on the Friday in Whitsun Week, when a Dinner shall be provided for the Society, for which each Member shall pay Two Shillings including good Ale or Cyder during dinner."

Members were required to meet in the Fore-place at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, and walk in procession two and two, *with their Club Sticks* to Beaminster Church . . .

The Town Hall was at that time used as the Club-room.

* There was a Friendly Society at Netherbury in 1765.



Member.

Secretary.

Committee.

Treasurer.

Steward.

CLUB STICKS OF THE BEAMINSTER FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

Article XXII provided "that at the expiration of the Term of Ten Years . . . this Society shall be dissolved; and every surviving Member shall receive an equal share of the money, then in the stock of the society, in proportion to the time he has been a Member, first deducting the Money every such Member has received for sickness"

In 1853 there were in the Club 46 Honorary Subscribers, and 295 Members, total 341, not necessarily residents of the parish.

In the accounts for the year ending May 30th, 1853, is a payment of £3 os. od. to the "Treasurer of the late Society for Flags, Sashes, Belts, Officers' Club Sticks, and Club Boxes"; also £2 2s. 6d. for "60 Members' Club Sticks."

It appears that at the Anniversary meeting—1853—the members dined at the following Inns—

"White Hart (Mr. Foss)	..	..	£3	6	0
Red Lion (Mr. Squire)	..	..	£5	2	0
New Inn (Mr. Cosby)	..	..	£4	16	0
Swan Inn (Mr. Milverton)	..	..	£5	0	0"

Paid from the Honorary Subscriber's account—"Bands [two] £11 : 0 : 0. Ringers £2 : 0 : 0," etc.

The following entry appears in the accounts for the year 1854—"Painting Officers' Club Sticks and Two Flag Poles £2 : 2 : 6." During that year there were 334 Members and 46 Honorary Members, total 371 on the Club roll.

The annual report for the year ending June 27th, 1859 stated that the number of Honorary Subscribers on the books was 33. Members 343. Total 376. During the year the receipts were £362 4s. 4d. Payments £101 9s. 2d., leaving the sum of £260 15s. 2d. to be added to the capital stock of the Society which amounted to £1,573 15s. 1d.

Amongst the payments are the following items—

Painting Flag poles, and repairing Flags & Banners 11s. 8d.
Fire and Candles 15s.

Allowance during sickness to six Members £8 3s. od.

Funeral allowance for seven Members and two Wives
£67 3s. 9d.

Dinners—Mr. Foss [White Hart] £3 4s. *od.* Mr. W. T. Law [New Inn] £5 *os. od.* Mr. G. Rendell [Crown Inn] £5 2s. *od.*
 Bands [two] £11 *os. od.* Ringers £2 2s. *od.* } *On Feast
 Clerk 5s. Sexton 2s. 6*d.* } day.

EDWIN COOMBS,
Secretary.

In 1862, when the Club “broke,” the total amount received during the previous ten years from Honorary Subscribers was £171 10s. 4*d.* Members’ Subscriptions amounted to £3,314 4s. 3*d.* Payments for sickness, etc., £942 1s. 11*d.*; leaving a balance of £2,372 2s. 4*d.* to be divided *pro rata* amongst the members.†

There had been during this decade, 444 members’ names on the Society’s books.

The amended rules (1862) decreed that “at the expiration of ten years, and every succeeding ten years, every surviving member [subject to certain provisions] shall receive an equal share of the money in the stock . . . and each leaving one pound to the stock of the Society.”

This new regulation caused considerable dissatisfaction amongst the members, many of whom seceded from the ranks.

During the ten years, 1862-72, 365 members entered their names on the Club roll. The amount received from Member’s contributions, entrance fees, etc., £2377 *os. 11d.* The payments for Sick pay, Funeral expenses, etc., £730 8s. 1*d.*, leaving a balance of £1,646 12s. 10*d.* for division.

In 1872 the rules were again revised, and the club restarted with a membership of 189. The following particulars are from the *General Abstract of the Society’s Accounts* for the period of division from July, 1872, to July, 1882—

Total Members’ contributions for the ten			
years, interest, entrance fees, etc.	..	£1259	2 5
Payments for Funeral expenses, Sick pay	..	£613	10 0
Balance for division	.. ..	£645	12 5

In 1882 some alterations were again made in the rules and the Club entered on its final decade.

* Paid from Honorary Subscribers’ Account.

† “The men were paid in the High street School-room, and the ‘Bell and Crown’ (the first public-house they would pass after receiving their money) was decorated for the occasion.” [Extract from W. B. Swatridge’s diary].

During the ten years, 1882-92, only three new members were enrolled, and as death had so thinned the ranks of the Society, reducing the number of its adherents to seventy-six all told, it was decided at a special meeting held on May 17th, 1892, to at once dissolve the Club, and divide the funds.

On November 10th, 1892, at the Assembly Room, Red Lion Hotel, the paraphernalia of the Old Beaminster Friendly Society, was sold by public auction; comprising one Silk Banner, 8ft. by 10ft., five Silk Bannerettes, one Silk Flag, 8ft. by 6ft., one Silk Flag, 10ft. by 8ft., two other Silk Flags, one Silk Union Jack, 6ft. by 5ft., five Silk sashes, five Leather sockets, together with the flag poles, and about thirty Club sticks. The sale realized £4 19s. 3d.

The writer was fortunate in securing several of the flags, a silk sash, and the Officer's Club sticks, all of which are preserved as a memento of past days.

With the passing of the old Club disappeared a parochial institution which provided at its annual festival a popular holiday. The town on such occasions put on its gayest attire, flags and garlands floated in the breeze, and the streets through which the procession marched were lined with avenues of little fir trees.

The Inns—they reaped a bountiful harvest on Club days—were also bedecked with flowers, and massive boughs torn from some stately “woak or elem tree” formed a bower over the entrance doorway.

Barnes, in his *Poems of Rural Life*, depicts a “Club Walken”—

“ by ten
O'clock the pleāse wer vull o' men,
A-dress'd to goo to church, an' dine,
An' walk about the pleāce in line.
Zoo off they started, two an' two,
Wi' päinted poles an' knots o' blue
An' girt silk flags,—I wish my box
'D a-got em all in ceāpes an' frocks,—
A-weāvèn wide an' flappèn loud
In pläysome winds above the crowd :

* * * * *

An' then at church there wer sich lots
O' hats a-hangèn up wi' knots,
An' poles a-stood so thick as iver
The rushes stood beside a river.
An' Mr. Goodman gi'ed em warnèn
To spend their evenèn lik' their mornèn ;
An' not to präy wi' mornèn tongues,
An' then to zwear wi' evenèn lungs ;

* * * * *

Vor clubs were all a-meän'd vor friends,
 He twold em, an' vor better ends
 Than twitèn vo'k an' pickèn quarrels,
 An' tipplèn cups an' emptèn barrels,—
 Vor meäkèn woone man do another
 In need the kindness ov a brother."

* * * * *

Club Day was in times past *the* festival of the year. Mr. W. B. Swatridge has kindly furnished the writer with his earliest recollections of the event.

"Beaminster Club, as long ago as I can remember was eagerly looked forward to as one of the few holidays of the year. The excitement began on the previous evening, when at 7 o'clock a flag was hung out from the Town Hall window, announcing the final meeting of members and officials.

Early on the following morning, before the ringing of the 5 o'clock bell, Mr. Edwin Coombs* and others were busily employed trimming the Church, and entrance gates. Soon the ringers arrived, raised the pole which used to lie across the tower, hauled up the flag, oiled the bells and began to ring.

About half-past nine the distant sound of a drum was heard, this announced the approach of one of the bands, either from Dorchester, Yeovil, or Milborne Port. Then the second band arrived and by this time the streets were full of animation, people being out in their holiday attire.

About half-past ten Mr. Coombs took his place on the roof over the little shop adjoining the Town Hall, and called over the names of the Members of the Club ;—the Fore-place by this time being densely crowded.

The procession then walked two and two with bands and banners to the top of Hogshill street, and then to the Church, the bells ringing merrily all the while. All the members carried their club sticks, some of which were surmounted by a large red flower, called by the men a 'piney.'

While the procession was entering the Church, which was soon crowded, galleries and all parts, the bands remained in the church-yard, and played 'God Save the Queen.'

After the service the procession re-formed and proceeded down Prout Bridge Hill, afterwards breaking up that the members might go to the dinner, which was provided at the different Inns in the town, the bands going round during the afternoon and playing them selections of music.

At half-past five the Club reassembled in the Fore-place, the men responded to their names as in the morning, and the procession then again paraded the streets of the town, returning to the Fore-place where a ring was formed and the bands played alternately for about an hour. The combined bands then played the National Anthem, ringing cheers were given for Mr. Russell† and others, and the proceedings,—*i.e.* the outdoor part of them—terminated.

* Secretary 1852-62.

† Thomas Russell, Samuel Cox, James William Daniel, trustees in 1855.

The first 'breaking' of the Club, that I can remember, was in 1862. When the Club was re-formed, the men dined altogether in a large marquee, erected in the Saw-mill field, opposite the Manor House; during the evening there was dancing and other amusements. For about ten years the Club continued to dine in the field, but in 1873 for some reason, there was not a festive gathering, and some people shewed their disapproval by tolling the minute bell at 8 o'clock in the morning, hanging out a black flag, and getting up a mock procession to commemorate the death of the Club.

After this the Club festival was held again for a few years, I think until 1881."

The last occasion the members of the Beaminster Friendly Society walked in procession carrying their Club poles, flags and banners, was at the local celebration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee, June 21st, 1887.

In an old account-book of Richard Symes are the following entries—

- " 1763. October y^e 25th. Gave the Friendly Society of Beamister towards buying a Silk Flagg £00 . 05 . 00."
 " 1770. June y^e 8th. Gave to the Friendly Society Club Box 5/3.
 Spent at the Feast 5/- "

Until within quite recent years, nearly every town and village in the West of England had its own Friendly Society, supported by weekly or monthly payments of its members, and augmented by donations from the "clergy and gentry" of the neighbourhood. The village inn was generally the Society's head-quarters, and sometimes the emblems of the Club's pole-heads were suggested by the sign-board of the public-house.

Most of the Club pole-heads of Somerset, and not a few in Dorset, were made of brass, many ornate in design, such as a Crown, Lion, Fleur-de-lis, Shepherd's crook, Spear, Eagle, Dove, Half-moon, etc.

The pole-heads belonging to the Beaminster Friendly Society were of turned wood, painted and gilded.

Some very handsome specimens of old brass pole-tops may be seen at the Taunton, Glastonbury and Wells museums. Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane (Brympton) and Mr. Jas. Kelway, of Langport, also have extensive collections.

Both at the club day festival and on pay nights the proceedings were not always harmonious,—Barnes suggests this in his poem "Whitsuntide an' Club Walken."

The rules of the Beaminster Friendly Society ordered forfeits to be collected from members "which shall have *dined* and not walking *regularly* in their proper places, or making or encouraging any riot."

Sir Spencer Ponsonby-Fane, in an article on *Club Pole-heads in Somerset** quotes the following fines and rules from the Minute-books of the Nether Stowey Benefit Society—

1797—"For striking a Member 6*d*.

„ —for fighting on Club Nyte with ——— he having struck the first blow 6*d*.

„ —for returning the blow 1*d*.

„ —for being out after sunset while receiving sick pay 5*d*.

„ —for returning to town while the Club was at Church 6*d*.

„ —for playing shove halfpenny during service 6*d*.

„ —for being drunk and swearing 6*d*.

„ —fined 8*d*. for four oaths and 4*d*. for two oaths, and 4*d*. for not keeping silence when called upon."

1809. "That £2 . 0 . 0 be paid for the funeral expenses of a wife, but no member to bury more than *one wife* at the expense of the Club."

1840. "Any member carrying away victuals from the Annual Feast shall forfeit 3*d*. to the Landlord."

At an annual village club-walk—usually on Oak-Apple day—the general effect of the painted club-sticks with their highly polished brass tops glistening in the sunshine, together with the emblazoned silk flags and banners carried in procession by men attired in their best white smocks bedecked with "tutties" of gay colour, made up a scene at once striking and picturesque. We can imagine the gay throng of members, preceded by the honorary subscribers marching to the village church, and then after the service parading the parish, making calls *en route* where cider would be distributed to the thirsty crowd.


"An' down along the road they done
All sorts o' mad-cap things vor fun ;
An' danc'd, a-pokèn out their poles,
An' pushèn bwoys down into holes :
An' Sammy Stubbs come out o' rank,
An' kiss'd me up ageän the bank,
A saucy chap ; I ha'nt vor'gied en
Not yet,—in short, I han't a-zeed en."

* *Connoisseur*, April, 1907.

WORKING MEN'S BENEFIT SOCIETY.

Early in the year 1863 hand-bills were circulated in the town, of which the following is a copy.

Notice
A Public Meeting will be held
at the Red Lion Hotel, Beaminster, on
Thursday evening, April 30th, at Half-
past 7 o'clock, to take into consideration
the best plan of forming
A Working Man's
Benefit Club.

 All Persons interested in the above, are respectfully invited to attend.

Dated, 24th April, 1863.

[Sherring, Printer.]

As a result of this meeting a Club was established on May 26th, 1863, entitled the "Beaminster Working Men's Benefit Society." Its chief supporters were the members of the old Friendly Society, who objected to the new rules framed in 1862.

The Trustees, at its formation were—Thomas Clare, Henry Virgint, John Cox Williams. Honorary Treasurer—Richard William Broster. Honorary Secretary—Alfred Hine.

The objects of the Society were "the raising of funds by entrance fees; subscriptions of the members, fines, donations, and by interest on capital; for the following purposes, namely—insuring sums of money to defray the expenses of the burial of deceased members, and of members' deceased wives."

Every member paid the sum of sixpence *per annum* towards defraying the necessary expense of management.

The Society consisted of "an unlimited number of members and honorary subscribers, the former shall be above ten, and under sixty years of age"

Rule XI.—That no person shall be admitted a member of this Society if he or his wife be of unsound health, or if he leads an idle or dissolute life, and any member who shall hereafter marry a person of unsound health, shall not be entitled to funeral money if his wife should die.

Rule XII.—That every member shall pay the sum of one shilling and sixpence, at each six-weekly meeting of the Society. . . . Each member on admission, shall pay one shilling towards the general fund

Rule XVI.—On the death of a member, the amount paid in by him shall be refunded by the Committee to his Widow or relative, within one month after his decease, a deduction of two shillings and six-pence in the pound being made for the benefit of the general fund of the Society.

Rule XX.—An annual meeting of the members shall be held, at which a report of the Society's proceedings for the past year shall be read, and a dinner provided at two shillings per head, including good ale or cider during dinner; . . . No part of the expenses to come out of the funds.

Rule XXIV.—That at the expiration of seven years, from the 26th day of May, 1863, all the moneys in the hands of the treasurer shall be equally divided between each benefit member, in proportion to the time he has been a member . . .

The Beaminster Working Men's Benefit Society was not a "walking Club"; *i.e.* the members did not march in procession or attend divine service on the occasion of the annual dinner. Just seven years after the Society's formation the Honorary Secretary received the gift of a handsome clock, subscribed for by the members, together with a card imprinted—

This Timepiece
was presented to
Mr. Alfred Hine

By the Members of the Beaminster Working Men's
Benefit Society, as a recognition of his valuable
services as their Honorary Secretary.

Signed on behalf of the Members,

JOHN COX WILLIAMS,
Treasurer.

May 26th, 1870.

The writer has only a copy of the Society's rules, all Account and Minute books have vanished.

It does not appear that at any time more than about 150 names of members and honorary subscribers stood on the Club's register.

At the termination of the first seven years, each member received a sum equal to all moneys he had paid into the funds, with an addition of one guinea premium, and at the expiration of the second seven years, half-a-guinea was added to each member's subscription.

In 1883, just twenty years after formation, the Club came to an end, having completed only six of its third seven years of existence. At the dissolution the funds were divided between the members, but without any

bonus, as all honorary subscribers had either died or left the town.

During the Society's first term, on the occasion of the annual general meetings, members and officers dined together at the White Hart Hotel, and during the second seven years at the Red Lion.

The whole of the work done by the officials was gratuitous and no charge was ever made for the Congregational Schoolroom which was used as the Society's Club-room.

Although duly appointed R. W. Broster did not act as Treasurer, and the duties of that office devolved upon John Cox Williams.

* * * * *

FREEMASONRY.

Amongst the institutions of the present day worthy of mention is the flourishing little "Beaminster Manor Lodge," No. 1367.

Whether there existed in the town a Lodge either operative or speculative prior to the revival of 1717 is now unknown. Possibly there was an active Lodge here at the time the noble tower of the parish church was built or even earlier, Lane's *Masonic Records* is however silent on the subject.

It appears that those Beaminsterians interested in Freemasonry either journeyed to Bridport or some other neighbouring town to attend meetings prior to the year 1872.

The names of several zealous Masonic townsmen occur in the records of St. Mary's Lodge, Bridport, *viz.* Baruch Fox (1861), J. S. Webb (1862), E. G. Legg (1863), W. H. W. Toby (1866), and John Hine (1869).

On August 3rd, 1871, a Charter was granted for the constitution of a Lodge in Beaminster, and at a Special Provincial Grand Lodge of Dorset held at the White Hart Hotel on Wednesday, January 10th, 1872, the Beaminster Manor Lodge was duly consecrated, Bro. John Staines Webb being installed as the first Worshipful Master, Bro. W. H. W. Toby, Senior Warden, and Bro. Jas. Andrews, Junior Warden.

Other Founders who signed the Petition were Bros. J. M. P. Montagu and Charles Tucker of Bridport, Thomas

Coombs (Dorchester) the Provincial Grand Secretary of Dorset, John Hine—the first Secretary of the Lodge—R. W. Broster and E. G. Legg of Beaminster.

Of the many Brethren who attended the Lodge none survive, but Wor. Bros. Samuel Cox and Robert Leigh who were at that meeting proposed for initiation, are still living in Beaminster.

Wor. Bro. James Andrews, the Grand Old Man of Dorset Freemasons, who passed away on November 26th, 1913, in his ninety-third year, was the last Founder then a member of the Lodge, the meetings of which he rarely missed. Bro. J. Andrews—the constantly elected Treasurer of the Lodge—was at the time of his death, almost, if not quite, the oldest Freemason in England, having been initiated in the Dorchester "Faith and Unanimity" Lodge on August 14th, 1844. He was one of nature's gentlemen, ever cheery and charitable, and beloved by all who knew him.

Amongst the list of Past Masters are the names of several who have filled the Chair on more than one occasion.

Of the prominent Founders Wor. Bros. J. Andrews and J. S. Webb always took the keenest interest in the Lodge's welfare. Members of the Hann, Kitson and Toleman families have each in their day done yeoman service for the Craft. Almost from the first the Beaminster Lodge has been supported by Brethren from the neighbourhood; Evershot has from the earliest days been represented by Wor. Bro. S. R. Baskett, an enthusiastic Mason, initiated on November 7th, 1878, and now the oldest subscribing member.

The Beaminster Manor Lodge—whose meetings have always taken place at the White Hart Hotel—has, like many others in country towns, had its ups and downs; it however continues to prosper doing good work and maintaining, though a small Lodge, a high reputation in the Province for its earnest support of charities, especially the Dorset Masonic Charity.

In March, 1885, the St. Mary's Royal Arch Chapter, No. 707,* was transferred from Bridport to Beaminster, where it continued until April, 1912, when the Companions of the parent town again claimed the Chapter.

* Warrant dated 6th May, 1870.



Photograph by

JAMES ANDREWS.

| E. C. Hare.

P.M., P.P.J.G.W. Dorset. P.Z. St. Mary's Royal Arch Chapter, No. 707.



Photograph by

JOHN STAINES WEBB.

Manill & Co.

P.M., P.P.S.G.W. Dorset.
P.Z. St. Mary's Royal Arch Chapter, No. 707. P.G.J. Dorset.
P.P.G.S.W. Mark Master ;
also Member of Knight Templar and Rose Croix Degrees.

WORSHIPFUL MASTERS OF THE BEAMINSTER
MANOR LODGE.

1872	J. S. Webb.	1894	O. M. Beament.
1873	W. H. W. Toby.	1895	F. P. Kitson.
1874	J. Hine.	1896	W. Oxley.
1875	J. Andrews.	1897	W. R. Pile.
1876	R. Leigh.	1898	S. R. Baskett.
1877	E. G. Legg.	1899	G. Roberts.
1878	W. H. W. Toby.	1900	C. Hann.
1879	E. Holland.	1901	H. C. Terry.
1880	J. Hine.	1902	J. G. Kitson.
1881	S. Cox.	1903	J. G. Kitson.
1882	C. G. Purkis.	1904	C. Toleman.
1883	S. R. Baskett.	1905	A. A. Pim.
1884	J. S. Webb.	1906	G. Brooks.
1885	A. Butler.	1907	H. H. Holwill.
1886	C. Hann.	1908	A. Hann.
1887	C. G. Purkis.	1909	F. Weston.
1888	R. Toleman.	1910	F. P. Kitson.
1889	C. Toleman.	1911	J. Newbery.
1890	J. S. Webb.	1912	T. R. Pine.
1891	H. Maunder.	1913	T. R. Pine.
1892	R. R. Samson.	1914	C. J. Edwards.
1893	A. Hann.		

Chapter IX.

MONMOUTH REBELLION. THE "BLOODY ASSIZES." WILLIAM PRINCE OF ORANGE.



It was on the morning of June 11th, 1685, that three foreign-built ships, flying no colours, anchored off the port of Lyme Regis. These vessels proved to be the frigate *Helderenbergh* accompanied by two smaller crafts. Their arrival startled the townspeople, more especially when seven boats put off from the largest of these strange vessels, and landed about eighty well armed men. Amongst the number were the Duke of Monmouth, Lord Grey, Andrew Fletcher, Lt.-Col. Wade, and Ferguson the Chaplain of the army.

Very quickly were the tidings of the Duke's landing spread abroad, and during his four days' tarry in the town,* men from miles around flocked to join the army.

Monmouth's standard—a blue flag with an open bible painted thereon—was set up in the Market-place, and a declaration setting forth the objects of the expedition read from the Cross.

Macaulay says—"The great mass of the population abhorred Popery and adored Monmouth"

Intense excitement prevailed in the town, military stores were speedily collected, and details of operations decided on.

Under cover of darkness during the night of June 13th-14th a detachment of Monmouth's soldiers, about 500 strong, marched to attack Bridport, then held by the Red Regiment of Dorset Militia.

The Royalist troops were surprised, and a sharp skirmish took place in the streets of the town, when the

* The old George Inn, Monmouth's head-quarters, was destroyed by fire on May 11th, 1844.

"rebels" lost seven men and forty muskets. Of the Militia, ten were killed, including "Edward Coker, gent. . . . slayne at the Bull Inn . . . by one Venner."*

The action proved indecisive, chiefly owing to lack of support from the ill-disciplined cavalry, under command of Lord Grey, whose untrained horses bolted back to Lyme on the enemy opening fire. Col. Venner being wounded, also fled, leaving Col. Wade alone to rally the infantry. This he did, and after capturing some dozen prisoners and thirty horses, effected an orderly retreat.

Meanwhile recruits were pouring into the Duke's camp, and drilling proceeded with hot haste.

On Monday, June 15th, Monmouth rode out of Lyme at the head of the army he had collected. Brave men they were, but almost strangers to the use of arms, if the weapons, many of them bore—flails, bludgeons, pitchforks, scythes fixed on poles, pikes and old muskets—are worthy of the name.

Then followed long and tedious marches over country roads reduced to quagmires by torrential rains, until at last the army rested at Bridgwater on Sunday, July 5th, and encamped in the Castle Fields. This was the eve of the momentous battle, for that night at eleven o'clock Monmouth, his officers, and his six thousand followers marched out of the town to strike a decisive blow at the King's forces on Sedgemoor.

It was a moon-lit night, but while the battle raged a thick marsh fog enshrouded the moor. Then came the dawn, and with it the flight of Monmouth and the remnant of his beaten troops, whose bravery was discounted by lack of discipline and training. On the field lay some thousand dead, while hundreds more were slaughtered in the chase.

When the news reached Beaminster of the defeat of the Duke of Monmouth and his army at Sedgemoor, the bells in the tower were ordered to be rung, and there was a Thanksgiving service in the Church.

1685. "pd. Daggle for the Kings poliſman [proclamation] & a booke of thanksgiveing for the overthrow of ye Rebels 2s."

1685. "Gave the Ringers at the overthrow of the Rebels 00 . 20 . 00."

As a sequel to the fight came the execution of Monmouth and the "Bloody Assizes."

* A brass tablet in Bridport Church commemorates this event.

Many Nonconformists of Dorset, Somerset and Devon had espoused the cause of the Protestant Duke, in fact they formed a large proportion of his army.

We shall probably never know how many Nonconformists of Beaminster enlisted under the "Blue Flag," for the Congregational Chapel books, which would no doubt have given us the information, were burnt in the fire of 1781.

Two names have however come down to us—James Daniel* and Lancelot Cox—both prominent citizens and influential men in their day, the former a lawyer and the latter a merchant.† Their lineal descendants are honoured townspeople to-day.

Of the natives of Beaminster, "wanting from their Homes in the tyme of the Rebellion," who were arraigned before Jeffreys at the Dorchester "Bloody Assize"—which commenced on Thursday, September 3rd, 1685, and continued until the 10th—nineteen names are recorded in a MS. entitled *Rebellatores in Rebellionem Jacobi Scott nuper Ducis Monmouth apud Lyme Regis in Com. Dorset 11mo. Junii ano primo Jacobi 2di Reg.* 1685. This unique document was some years ago offered for sale by public auction in our county town; it was fortunately purchased by Mr. W. Bowles Barrett of Weymouth, who, realising its national worth deposited it in the British Museum.‡ The manuscript is of folio size, bound in vellum, and contains 47 pages written in a neat law hand. In it are enrolled the names and places of residence of 2,611 persons indicted at the Dorchester, Exeter and Taunton Assizes, together with the occupation of many of the men.

That these men were absent from their homes about the time of Monmouth's landing at Lyme, was regarded as sufficient reason to be arrested by the Constables of the Hundred, on the terrible charge of high treason.

Some of the Beaminster "rebels" were transported, others may have been executed.

We know that Charles Strong, § Richard Hoare, § Thomas Bugler and John Cantlebury were convicted of high treason and sentenced to transportation.

* Memorial tablet in the Congregational Chapel, see Chapter III.

† Lancelot Cox issued town tokens in 1667.

‡ Add. MSS., 30, 077.

§ These prisoners were sentenced to death, but "no place nor time ordered for their execution."

Charles Strong's name appears amongst the " Prisoners in Dorchester Gaole to bee Transported." He was one of the " Ninety Rebels " delivered to Sir William Booth and sent to Barbadoes, on board the *Happy Return* of Poole, where he was " disposed of " to Col. Jno. Sampson.

Richard Hoare was one of " Seventy-two Rebels by his Ma^{ties} Mercy granted to Gerome Nepho to bee transported to this Island [Barbadoes] by the *Betty*, James May, Master ; received by Charles Thomas and John Penne, by order of George Penne, Esq., being the order of Jerom Nepho."

Thomas Bugler is mentioned in " The sale of Sixty-Seaven Rebels delivered by Cap^{tn} Charls Gardner, Comander of the *Jamaica*, Marchant, to Charls Thomas and Thomas Sadler for acco^t of Mess^{rs} John Palmer, John Richardson, Samu^{el} Young, and William Rose, the 12th day of March, 1685."—[6]

John Cantlebury is mentioned as " out of Bridgewater [with] Prison^s that came from Taunton 25th Sept., 1685."

The Beaminsterians tried at Dorchester were—

Josephus Strong de Beamister		
Carolus Strong Jun. de eadem		
Carolus Strong	" "	
Thomas Sargeant	" "	
Richard Meech	" "	
Willell Bugler	" "	
Thomas Buggler	" "	
Samuel Bailey	" "	
Edward Doun	" "	" Wanting from their Homes in the tyme of the Rebellion."
Samuel Hoskins	" "	
Richard Hoare	" "	
John Cantelbury	" "	
Philip Duning	" "	
John Duning	" "	
Lancelot Cox	" "	
John Hearn Jun.	" "	
John Gerard	" "	
Ra[lph] Cloud Jun.	" "	
John Hoskins	" "	

[Presented by]

JOHN HALLETT	} Constables.
THOS. WILKINS	

One " Simon Poole of Bemister [was] Put on board the *John*, frigget, Cap. Will. Stokes, Comand^r, ninety Prisoners consined for the burbadous dated at Dorchester oc^{br} the 24, 1685. Shipt at Bristoll. Will. Booth."

Simon Poole and twelve others died at sea.

Lancelot Cox was one of those " prisoners bound each for the other for their appearances at the next Assizes and for their good Behaviour in £100 each."

The sufferings of the exiles,—many tortured by unhealed wounds,—were very terrible, huddled as they were in the holds of small vessels. " In the dungeons below all was darkness, stench, lamentation, disease and death . . . More than one-fifth were flung to the sharks before the voyage ended."*

Of the 312 placed on trial at Dorchester, 74 were actually executed,† 175 transported, nine fined or whipped, and 54 discharged.

It may be of interest to here reproduce Jeffreys' Prescript to the Sheriff of the County, *viz.*—

" These are, therefore, to will and require of you, immediately on sight hereof, to erect a gallows in the most public place to hang the said traytors on, and that you provide halters to hang them with, a sufficient number of faggots to burn the bowells, and a furnace or cauldron to boil their heads and quarters, and salt to boil them with, half a bushell to each traytor, and tar to tar them with, and a sufficient number of spears and poles to fix and place their heads and quarters; and that you warn the owners of four oxen to be ready with dray and wain, and the said four oxen, at the time hereafter mentioned for execution, and you yourselves, together with a guard of forty able men at the least, to be present by eight o'clock of the morning to be aiding and assisting me or my deputy to see the said rebels executed. You are also to provide an axe and a cleaver for the quartering the said rebels."

Pulman in his *Book of the Axe* gives the following particulars concerning the remarkable escape of James Daniel‡ before mentioned—" Mr. James Daniel, a lawyer of Beaminster, and great-great-grandfather to the present family of that name, was induced by the persecutions inflicted upon the nonconformists—the body to which he belonged

* Macaulay.

† Robert Fawn of Corscombe and twelve others were hanged at Bridport, and their quarters, having been boiled in pitch, distributed for public exhibition in the neighbourhood.

‡ Information supplied by the late James Daniel, of Beaminster.

—to join the standard of Monmouth, when that unfortunate personage landed at Lyme, in 1685, and to be present at the decisive battle of Sedgemoor. Mr. Daniel was among the number of those who escaped from the field, and who took refuge from their pursuers in flight. Many of his comrades were captured on the road, but he succeeded in reaching Beaminster, and in placing himself once more beneath the shelter of his beloved home.* Not long, however, was he permitted to remain there undisturbed; for being a man of influence and of property, a reward was soon offered for his apprehension,—a reward which too many, in those distressing times, were eager enough to earn. The monster Jeffreys was presiding at Dorchester, and scores of lives had already been sacrificed to his mis-called ‘justice.’ Every day brought in fresh victims, and the arrival of Mr. Daniel, as a prisoner, was eagerly expected. But as yet the fugitive, by concealing himself in a chamber, had eluded all pursuit. He soon, however, found it unwise to remain in Beaminster, and accordingly prepared for departure, first offering up a fervent prayer, in answer to which he imagined that a voice from heaven had whispered to him ‘flee to the west.’ He religiously obeyed the mandate, and shortly afterwards found himself at Knowle. A barn then occupied the spot which has since been appropriated to a more sacred purpose, and thither he directed his steps, concealing himself on his arrival, beneath some straw with which the floor of the barn was covered—agitated enough, no doubt, but still maintaining an unshaken faith in the protection of the Providence in whom he trusted. Scarcely had he effected his concealment ere the voices of his pursuers were wafted to his agonised ear. The soldiers of James, and the emissaries of Jeffreys, were but too ready to do the bidding and to imitate the character of their abominable masters. The premises at Beaminster had been unsuccessfully searched, and information had been furnished of the probable retreat of the fugitive. Accordingly, the pursuers, like bloodhounds pouncing upon their prey, rushed madly into the barn, not doubting of a successful issue. But, strange to say, their minutest search was fruitless. In vain were their bayonets thrust eagerly into the straw, which was as eagerly trampled by their impatient feet.

* The house in Hogshill street has been rebuilt but is still in the possession of the Daniel family.

In vain their practised eyes peered anxiously into every nook and corner likely to afford concealment. Again and again was the search renewed, but invariably with the same result. At length it was given over, and the barn was left to the undisturbed possession of the fugitive, whose feelings may be imagined but cannot be described. Preserved, as he believed, by the immediate agency of Providence, he determined, in the first outpourings of his gratitude, upon the sacred appropriation of the spot to the final depository of his mortal remains, after the trials of the earth should have passed away. In after years, when the heat of persecution had subsided, and when the men of the west could talk in safety about the memory of their beloved Monmouth, and with righteous indignation about the horrors of 'the bloody assize,' and the judge whose atrocities were so familiar in their locality, the barn at Knowle was removed, and the bones of the old man over whose furrowed brow a hundred years had passed, and whose wonderful escape had formed the theme of many a fireside conversation, were borne to their last resting place upon the spot which he so long had selected for the purpose, and which, to the present moment has been adopted as the only burying-ground of his descendants."

We may surmise that the Constables of the Hundred—knowing full well the punishment in store for those persons who afforded shelter and protection to James Daniel and others implicated in the Rebellion—shrank from playing the part of informers and overlooked their "crime."

The neat little grave-yard, known as "Daniel's Knowle" standing alone in its solitude, is picturesquely situated about a mile west of the town. The place is only 40ft. long by 24ft. wide, surrounded by a hedge of holly, a laurel fence, and a low stone ivy-covered wall—possibly all that now remains of the historic barn—and is entered by two massive iron gates. A weeping-willow tree—brought from Napoleon's tomb in St. Helena—casts its peaceful shade over this hallowed spot, which is the burial place of the Daniels of Beaminster to this day.*

The following interments are recorded upon the tombstones—

* By the courtesy of the present owner, Mrs. W. J. Daniel, interested visitors are permitted to obtain the key at Knowle farm-house near by.



DANIEL'S KNOWLE BURIAL GROUND. Exterior.



DANIEL'S KNOWLE BURIAL GROUND. Interior.

I. To the Memory of
James Daniel, attorney-at-law, who died A.D. 1711. Aged 100 years.
Also of John Daniel, son of the above James Daniel who died A.D. 1721.
Aged 54 years.

Also of James Daniel, son of the aforesaid John Daniel
(and one of the Coroners for the County of Dorset)
Who died October 27th A.D. 1797. Aged 84 years.

Also of
Ann Daniel, wife of the last named James Daniel, who died March 10th
A.D. 1802.
Aged 86 years.

Also of James Daniel, Esquire, son of the last named James Daniel
(and Captain in the Yeovil sub-division Regiment of Volunteer Infantry)
who died Feby. 16th A.D. 1820. Aged 66 years.
Also of Elizabeth his wife, who died August 22nd A.D. 1823. Aged 69 years.

II. In memory of
Thomas Hine who died April 29th, 1817. Aged 79 years.
Also Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Hine, who died Decr. 27th, 1814.
Aged 74 years.
Also Elizabeth, wife of James Hine, who died Jany. 6th, 1807,
aged 33 years.
And of Cary, Son of James and Elizabeth Hine, who died Feby. 24th,
1810. Aged 4 years.

III. In Memory of
Captain Joseph Bishop
who departed this life March 20th, 1844
in the 58th year of his age
"Requiescat in Pace."
Also Betty
Widow of the aforesaid Captain Bishop
Who departed this life May 4th, 1871
in the 77th year of her age
"Fiat voluntas Tua."

IV. Sacred
To the Memory of
Sarah Symes
Who died June 16th, 1867.
Aged 75 years.

V. In Memory of
Susanna Petty
Daughter of James Daniel, Gent.
Coroner for this County.
Died June 21st, 1838.
Aged 88 years.

VI.

In
Memory of
Joseph Symes, Esq.
Who fell asleep in Jesus
On the 11th April, 1878.
"Deeply regretted."

VII.

Sacred
To the Memory of
John Daniel of Beaminster in this County, Surgeon.
Who died July 31st, 1829.
Aged 63 years.
Also of Betsy his wife
Who departed this life August 29th, 1816.
Aged 42 years.
Likewise of Elizabeth Reader, Susan Elizabeth,
and Richard Daniel their Grandchildren
the infants of their eldest Son
James William Daniel.

* * * * *

Sacred to the Memory of
Susan
The beloved wife of James William Daniel
Who departed this life February 9th, 1853.
Aged 54 years.
A faithful believer in God's mercy
through Jesus Christ her Saviour.
"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord"
and of
James William Daniel
Who died July 16th, 1859.
Aged 61 years.

μη το θέλημα μου ἀλλὰ τὸ σὸν γενέσθω.

[Translation—"Let not my will but thine be done."]

* * * * *

Also of
Thomas Palmer Daniel
Surgeon
Son of the above mentioned
John and Betsy Daniel,
who died April 6th, 1853.
Aged 52 years.
"The memory of the just is blessed."
And of Elizth Anna, his infant
daughter who died Augst. 13th, 1834.
Aged 11 months.
And of
Fanny his wife
who died December 4th, 1858.
Aged 55 years.

* * * * *

Also of
James John Daniel
Eldest Son of
James William Daniel
who to the Unutterable Grief of his Parents
Departed this life June 20th,
1842, aged Thirteen Years
And six Months.

VIII.

Sacred
to
The Memory of
Susan, and James John Daniel,
Infant Children of
William James & Sarah Anne Daniel.
Susan, died
April 5th, 1865, aged
10 Months.
And James John died
August 16th, 1865.
Aged 5 Weeks.

IX.

Sacred
to
The Memory of
Sarah Anne
The beloved Wife of
William James Daniel
Who died March 4th, 1873.
Aged 29 years.
Also of the above
William James Daniel,
who died March 29th, 1909.
Aged 74 Years.
Jesu, Mercy.

“ Besides the above there have been buried, John Gill and Susan Lush and about 10 or 12 children.” This extract is from a document once in the possession of the Daniel family.

Just a hundred and fifty years after the romantic institution of this little cemetery a ceremony took place which was most certainly never anticipated by the staunch old Puritan who founded the mortuary, *viz.* the consecration of the place and subsequent feast. The following account of the proceedings is recorded in the *Bridport News*.*

* July 28th, 1860.

" The consecration of this pretty little spot of ground took place on Monday, [July 16th, 1860,] in the presence of a large number of spectators. The Lord Bishop of Salisbury [Dr. Hamilton] who performed the ceremony arrived upon the spot about half-past three in the afternoon, accompanied by several of the neighbouring clergy in their surplices. On his lordship approaching the entrance gate, a petition was presented praying that he would consecrate the ground, to which he replied, 'I have great pleasure in complying with the prayer of your petition.' The bishop and clergy then walked round the ground repeating the 49th Psalm. Amongst the clergy present we notice the Revs. Dr. Lowe, A. Codd (Beaminster), A. Broadley (Bradpole), S. C. Malan (Broadwindsor), E. D. Butts (Camesworth), T. Sanctuary (Powerstock), P. M. Compton (Mapperton), — Keddle (Bothenhampton), etc., etc.

The sentence of consecration was read by the rural dean the Rev. A. Broadley (who acted as chancellor) which was afterwards signed by the bishop, and ordered by him to be enrolled and preserved amongst the muniments in the registry. The customary prayers having been offered, a hymn was sung, and the interesting proceedings terminated. We should not forget to state that the bells of Beaminster church sent forth their merry peals during the day.

On the following Thursday, as a sequel to, and commemorative of, the above interesting event, about sixty of the poor of the parish were kindly invited by Miss Daniel to partake of a good and substantial dinner, consisting of joints of beef, mutton, vegetables, etc., etc., provided for them under the same tent, beneath which on the previous Monday the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, with a numerous body of clergy and laity, partook of a cold collation preparatory to their proceeding to Knowle. On the occasion in question, the poor began to make their appearance at the appointed time, with praiseworthy punctuality, and having taken the seats assigned to them, surveyed no doubt with pleasurable feelings the nice old English fare prepared for their coming entertainment.

Grace having been said by the Rev. W. Laxton, the host, W. J. Daniel, Esq., was then promptly assisted by the district visitors, and other ladies present, in supplying the numerous guests with the good things before and around them. This we think imparted a peculiar charm, a rich colouring to the picture, for the same benevolent hands now extended in dispensing those hospitalities are on ordinary occasions employed in administering to the spiritual and bodily necessities of the poor. At length with countenances lit up with smiles and happy contentment, every guest appeared in excellent humour with everybody, and the table itself had ceased groaning under the weight of the viands set out at the commencement of the repast. On the cloth being removed, the Rev. W. Laxton having returned thanks, and each cup being replenished with capital cider the 'Queen' was then proposed by the worthy host, prefacing the toast with suitable observations, which were drunk with all the honours, and *one cheer more*, aye, and where is the heart whether among rich or poor, on English soil where loyalty does not find a home, and with responsive throat ejaculate 'God save the Queen.' Other toasts were also proposed and drunk, and thus the conviviality was joyously maintained until the too rapid flight of time brought the parting moment. The National Anthem was then sung in downright earnest, and although the vocalists were not of the first order of musicians, yet we will engage

to say, the *heart* was well tuned and heartily was it sung. It must have been a source of lively satisfaction to both host and hostess, district visitors and other ladies who assisted, on the company leaving, to hear them give vent to an overflowing heart by warm expressions of gratitude, and we doubt not their sincerity for the bountiful treat afforded them, and the kind and condescending attention each guest had experienced at the hands of the ladies above alluded to, in their endeavour to make the temporary home of these poor under the tent, so truly comfortable, we may well say like an oasis in their pilgrimage through life, a spot no doubt they will frequently and fondly retrace in their minds, when sitting and musing before their 'wee bit ingle.'"

WILLIAM PRINCE OF ORANGE.

On November 5th, 1688, the Prince of Orange, with about 15,000 troops landed at Brixham, and marched with his army through the country to London. The Prince himself "was commonly, or always, in the middlemost line, which was the meetest place."

The triumphant march from the West to the metropolis was both long and tedious, often through narrow lanes "not used to waggons, carts, or coaches, and therefore extream rough and stony."

In an account of the progress of the army, written by the Chaplain of the forces, our town is mentioned as a halting-place—"Our first line advanced from Axminster to Crookhorn and Beminster,* the second to Axminster and Lime, and the third line according to the others' stage before them . . . The places where we quarter'd were scarce able to receive us, insomuch that every house was crowded. The Prince, with all his lords, knights, and gentlemen attending him rested the Lord's day, November 25th, at Crookhorn."

We can well imagine a crowd of Beaminsterians, anxious to see their future King, journeying to "Crookhorn" on this November Sunday, for "the country people ran in great numbers from one town to another when they heard for certain which way he came."

On Monday morning the whole army advanced, and probably our townsmen were not sorry to see the soldiers march away.

* November 24th, 1688.

The following extract from a pamphlet of the period may be of interest—*

“Near unto Beaminster there lived a gentleman whose name I shall forbear, but a very rigid Papist, and one whom I cannot quite forget because of his unkindness and cursed intention towards the army. Hearing that some regiments would pass that way, he resolved to give some their last meat and drink, as his own neighbours at Beaminster informed us when we were there. Therefore he caused a beef or two to be kill’d, and poison’d the flesh, making it into pyes, and poison’d also a hogshead or two of beer, and as much of sider, for the hungry souldiers (as he called them) against they came that way. Some of his neighbours, hearing of this cursed design, spread it purposely about the country to prevent any of the Prince of Orange’s men from being destroyed—inasmuch that every regiment was timely warn’d thereof. But as in all great armies there will be some straglers, so there was some in ours, tho’ not many, and these, not hearing of this bait, accidentally passed that way, and, as they approached near the house, they concluded ’twas their best course to call and drink there, because it shew’d well to the eye, and people all along were very kind to the souldiers and would make them drink, and in many places eat. Hereupon these straglers went to the house and asked for some beer. And the people there made them eat and drink freely, saying *their master had provided for them*. After they had eat and drank, they hastened towards their regiments, lest the enemies party should happen to meet them. Being come a little more than a quarter of a mile from the house, they grew suddenly so weak and faint that they were not able to go any farther. So they lay down under a tree, not suspecting what was the matter. As they were in this desperate condition, by meer Providence there came a surgeon-major that way, who, espying some souldiers (supposed they were some of the Prince of Orange’s men) he went to speak with them, and seeing them look so fearfully (their eyes being prodigiously swelled) he asked presently what was the matter with them? or what did ail them? They told him they knew not, only they had eat and drank at the gentleman’s house behind, pointing to the house. The surgeon having heard of the evil preparations, prepared immediately an antidote, and gave directions what they must do. Whereupon they presently began to vomit, and after some time they waxed a little better and made shift to get to the waggons which carried sick souldiers, and were under the surgeon-major’s hands for some time. At the very next town, called Yetminster, one souldier died in the night, and none could tell what was the matter with him, being very sick when he went to bed, which souldier I buried there according to our liturgy. The others that were poisoned were strangely altered, their eyes being swell’d after an odd manner.”

* “An Exact Diary of the late Expedition of his illustrious Highness the Prince of Orange (now King of Great Britain) from his Palace at the Hague to his landing at Torbay, and from thence to his arrival at Whitehall; giving a particular account of all that happened and every day’s march. By a Minister [John Whittle] Chaplain in the Army. MDCLXXXIX.”

On December 18th, near midnight, William Prince of Orange entered London. In defiance of the weather a great multitude assembled between Albemarle House and St. James' Place to greet the Prince. Every hat, every cane, was adorned with an orange riband. The bells were ringing all over London. Candles for illumination were deposited in the windows, and faggots for bonfires were heaped up in the streets.

When the news of the triumphal entry of the Prince into the capital reached Beaminster, the bells in the tower were set ringing. These bells, which only three short years before had proclaimed the coronation of James II, now announced with joy the flight of the tyrant from the throne.

In no part of the realm was the King more detested than in the West of England, for the horrors of the "Bloody Assize" were fresh in the people's memory, and one can well understand how gladly the inhabitants of Beaminster attended a thanksgiving service in the church on the departure of James from our land.

In the Churchwarden's account book for the year 1688 are the following entries—

"Gave ye ringers the thanksgiving day for the prince of oring 8s."

"Gave ye Ringers for Ringing for the prince when he went Into London 5s."

"Gave ye Ringers ye Crownation day 2s."

"Pd ye post for bring ye book of prayere for ye thanksgiving day for ye prince 3d."

"pd ye post for bringing ye book of prayer for ye King & quene 3d."

For many years annual payments were made for ringing on "Thanksgiving-day."

Chapter X.

THE MANORS AND COPYHOLDS. INCLOSURE OF COMMONS.

(BY J. LANE KITSON).



MOST of the houses and lands in the parish of Beaminster are of copyhold or customary tenure, and are within and parcel of one or other of three ancient manors named "Beaminster Prima," "Beaminster Secunda," and "Beaminster Parsonatus otherwise Netherbury in Ecclesiâ." The last mentioned manor extends into the parish of Netherbury, which parish also contains two similar manors, *viz.* "Netherbury in Terra otherwise Yondover" and "Slape." The three Beaminster manors are believed to have formerly comprised the whole of Beaminster parish, with the exceptions of (*a*) Langdon Farm, which constituted a separate manor, and (*b*) the ancient demesne of Parnham containing Parnham House and about forty acres adjoining. But during the last half-century many of the copyholds have been enfranchised by purchase of the freehold interest from the lord of the manor.

Each of the five manors before mentioned was formerly attached to a prebend or prebendal stall in the Cathedral Church of Sarum bearing its name, the prebendary being, in right of his prebend, lord of the manor and entitled as often as occasion arose to grant or renew a lease of his manorial rights for not more than three lives. On the granting of every such lease a goodly sum was paid to the grantor, the rent being usually nominal; and thus the emoluments of a prebendary depended almost entirely on the chance of a life or lives dropping during his period of office.

The prebendary of Netherbury in Ecclesiā was not only interested in the manor of that name, but was also the patron for the time being of the benefice of Netherbury-cum-Beaminster.

In or about 1857 the five manors became, under certain Acts of Parliament and Orders in Council, vested in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England and Wales, and that body shortly afterwards sold them, the three Beaminster manors and that of Yondover being bought by Lt.-Col. Samuel Symes Cox, who, as lessee for lives under the respective prebendaries, was already the lord for the time being of each of those manors. The lordship thereof is now vested in his son, John Russell Cox, Esq., and has no necessary connection with any other property owned by him. Every prebendal stall in the Cathedral, and the Prebendary (now usually styled an Honorary or Non-residentiary Canon) holding it, still retains the name of the manor which was anciently attached to it. The local connection is now a mere matter of history, but it is pleasing to note that on the erection of the Beaminster Public Hall and Institute in 1902 Canon Inman and Canon Bell, the then holders of the prebendal stalls of Beaminster Prima and Beaminster Secunda, shewed a kindly interest in the place from which their titles originated, by contributing to the Building Fund.

Other neighbouring manors which gave their names to Salisbury diocesan prebends are Chardstock, Lyme and Halstock, Yetminster Prima, Yetminster Secunda, Grimstone, Stratton and Fordington.

The three Beaminster manors, or the lands comprising them, are much intermixed. No map of either manor exists, and there are no means of defining their boundaries. Some houses and fields are partly in one manor and partly in another. The White Hart Hotel is an instance of this, the archway forming the division between the manors. For many years prior to 1888 the half-yearly Manor Courts were held in this hotel, the steward and homage first assembling at the west end of the large room on the first floor to hold a court in and for Prima Manor, then proceeding to the other end to hold a court in and for Secunda, and finally dining together and spending their court-fees in the enjoyment of a convivial evening. Owing to enfranchisements the manors and fees have become much reduced, and advantage is now taken of an Act of Parlia-

ment under which courts may be held either in or out of the manor, and admissions may even be taken *out of court*. The courts are now usually held at the steward's office, those for Beaminster Prima and Secunda being still held twice a year, and persons entitled to be admitted are then and there *taken tenant by delivery of a rod*. The Homage* (or jury), consisting of two or more customary tenants (copyholders) of the manor are first sworn "to enquire and true presentment make of all such things as shall be given you in charge and to present nothing out of hatred or malice nor conceal anything through favour or affection." They then make presentment of deaths, surrenders, claims for admission and other matters which have come to their knowledge; after which the persons claiming admission attend, and are admitted by the steward in the words following—"The lord of the manor of Beaminster doth by me his steward admit you, A.B., tenant to the premises in this your claim mentioned. To hold to you for the term of your life according to the custom of this manor And by virtue thereof I hereby" (handing to the party admitted a "rod"—usually a pen or pencil—"deliver to you possession and seisin." Then the new tenant, if a male, takes the customary oath of fealty, swearing that he "will become a true tenant" and will "pay his rent and do his suit and services as the other tenants of the manor do or ought to do." The fealty of a woman is dispensed with.

After every admission the steward makes an entry thereof on the Court Roll (formerly a roll of parchment but now a book), and delivers a copy to the person admitted as tenant, who is accordingly said to hold "by copy of court roll" or as a "Copyholder."

* * * * *

The customs of the Manors of Beaminster Prima and Beaminster Secunda are alike, and were presented by the homage at a court held for Secunda Manor in 1599. A

* A French word derived from the Latin *Homo*, a man. On the original grant of lands under the feudal system the tenant or vassal, besides taking the oath of fealty, was obliged to do *homage* to his lord, openly and humbly kneeling, being ungirt, uncovered and holding up his hands together between those of the lord who sat before him, and there professing that he did become his *man* (" *devenio vester homo* ") from that day forth of life and limb and earthly honour, and then he received a kiss from his lord; which ceremony was by the feudits nominated *homagium* or manhood [Littleton, 85].

copy of the presentment appears in Hutchins' *History of Dorset*. It is too lengthy and too technical for insertion here, but the following summary may be found interesting—

1.—Every customary tenant (or copyholder) may at any time by delivery of a rod or mote* surrender his tenement or any part of it into the hands of two other customary tenants, to the use of any one or two other persons for their lives. And thereupon the lord or steward will admit the person or persons to whose use the property has been surrendered for his or their life or lives on payment of a fine and the steward's fees. The amount of the fine, in case the lord and party admitted cannot agree thereon, is to be assessed by the homage, but is not to be less than the fine paid on previous admissions to the property. In practice the fine on each particular property is now regarded as of fixed amount, but the fines in respect of different properties vary from a few pence to many pounds.

2.—A customary tenant may at any time in the presence of two other customary tenants nominate and appoint any one or two other persons to be the lord's next tenant or tenants (either jointly or successively) after his decease. But if the nominator leaves a widow she is to enjoy the property for her widowhood estate, and the persons nominated are to await her death, remarriage, surrender or forfeiture. On the death of the tenant, or on the determination of the estate of his widow (if any), the person or persons nominated will be admitted for his or their life or lives on payment of the same fine and fees as in the case of a surrender.

3.—A widow in possession for her widowhood estate may, provided no other person has any interest by surrender or nomination expectant on the determination of her widowhood estate, make a surrender or nomination in the same manner as any other customary tenant.

4.—If a widow does not live sole and chaste she forfeits her widowhood estate, and the person (if any) entitled in expectancy may enter, or, if there be no such person, the lord of the manor may enter by the custom.

5.—If a customary tenant fails, without the lord's licence, to dwell in his tenement or cottage within the manor, or within one of the other Beaminster manors, he may be fined† by the lord; and, if after being so fined at three manor courts he dwells not as aforesaid he forfeits his customary estate.

6.—A customary tenant may cut for repairs or other necessary uses any trees, underwood, or fuel growing or being upon his customary lands without the lord's consent.

7.—A customary tenant may—or rather might while such woods existed—go into the common woods of the manor and take sufficient *frith*‡ for necessary uses about his tenement; and might cut *timber* for

* The original idea was probably the handing over of an atom of soil or a piece of stick or straw picked from the holding as representing the property itself; or, in other words, a part in the name of the whole.

† There is no record of anyone having been so fined during the last century.

‡ "Frith" here evidently means wood or timber, although in all the dictionaries to which we have referred the only meaning given in this connection is "a wood, a forest."

repairing his tenement, the lord or his woodward being first prayed to allot such timber. Also every customary tenant had by custom common of pasture for his cattle in the woods and other commons of the manor.*

8.—If a tenant dies without making or nominating a tenant to succeed him, his tenement escheats or falls into the hands of the lord, who may regrant the same, and the person taking it must agree or compound for the fine at the lord's pleasure.

9.—On the death of, or surrender by, a tenant of a customary tenement, being a dwelling-house or cottage, a heriot is due to the lord, but no heriot is due on the death, surrender, or marriage of a widow entitled for her widow's estate only. Originally a heriot meant the best beast or best goods of the tenant so dying or surrendering, but in these manors the custom is to commute the heriot by payment of £5 5s. *od.*, or, in the case of a cottage or half-tenement, £2 12s. 6d.

It may be further explained that before the *Wills Act* 1837 copyhold property could not be disposed of by will unless the copyholder had first made a surrender to the use of his will, but by that Act a copyholder may in all cases devise his estate by will without such a surrender, and may thereby defeat his widow's right to freebench or widowhood estate.

The customs of the manor of Beaminster Parsonatus, as well as those of the manors of Netherbury in Terra otherwise Yonderover and Slape, both within the parish of Netherbury, are similar to the foregoing, except that if a tenant of either of these manors dies, without making or nominating a tenant to succeed him, his tenement devolves (subject to the widowhood estate of his widow, if any) to his heir-at-law, who is admitted thereto for the term of his life, and has the same power of disposition as other customary tenants.

* * * * *

The existing Court Rolls (or books in which the admissions of copyhold tenants are recorded) of the manors of Beaminster Prima and Beaminster Secunda extend back to the year 1620. With one or two exceptions each book contains an index of names, and it is a curious circumstance that down to about 1700 these indexes were arranged alphabetically according to the Christian names, Andrew Cox appearing under A., Deborah Crandon under D., and so on. In some books an index of surnames has been added, but evidently at a later date. It would seem

* See page 263.

from this that, even as late as the seventeenth century, persons were chiefly known by their Christian names, surnames being comparatively little used.

The following names, still or very recently extant in Beaminster or its neighbourhood and (as regards some of them) seldom met with elsewhere, appear in the earliest of the court rolls; *viz.*—

1620 to 1640—Barter, Brinsome or Brinson, Bugler,* Caddy, Canterbury, Chicke, Clare, Cox, Danyell and Daniel, Dunne, Elliott, Ford, Fowler, Gerrard, Grinter, Gudge, Guppy, Hallett, Hart, Hearne and Hern, Hooper, Keech, Lawrence, Mansfield, Meech, Newman, Pynney, Rowsell, Russell, Stowdley, Swaffielde, Symes, Tizar and Tizard, Trivett, Tucker, Wills.

1640 to 1670 (in addition to many of the above)—Colfox, Cossens, Curtis, Deavnish and Devenish, Gillam and Gilham, Gillingham, Gundry, Hardie, Hayward, Hellier, Hood, Notley, Samways, Stacy, Stoodley and Studlye, Watts.

LIST OF LORDS AND STEWARDS OF THE MANORS OF BEAMINSTER PRIMA AND BEAMINSTER SECUNDA.

BOTH MANORS.

<i>Dates.</i>	<i>Lords.</i>	<i>Stewards.</i>	<i>Dates.</i>
1619-1640	Peter Hoskins	George Browne Humfrey Jolyff George Savage	1621-1630 1632-3 †1637-1639
1641-1650	John Hoskins	John Hutchins Richard Legg John Hillary	1640-2 †1649 1650
1651-1653	Henry Hoskins	John Hoskins	1651
1653-1656	John Ironside, Robert Bragge, Roger Gouge and Andrew Gouge	Thomas Abingdon	1651-1666
1657-1694	John Ironside, Roger Gouge and Andrew Gouge (spelled Gudge after 1670)	Charles Fookes John Hoskins Arthur Symes	†1676 1677-1683 1684-1699

* In 1684 and 1686 this name appears as "Buggler," and two hundred years later this was almost invariably the local pronunciation. Is it not obviously a corruption of "Beauclerc" = fine scholar? In old names, especially those of French origin, sounds are retained much more accurately than spellings. The open "U" (as in *bugle*), now sometimes adopted, may be softer and more euphonious, but in respect of derivation and old association the change is certainly to be regretted.

† The names of the Stewards do not appear in the court-rolls for the intervening years.

<i>Dates.</i>	<i>Lords.</i>	<i>Stewards.</i>	<i>Dates.</i>
1695	Roger Gudge and Andrew Gudge		
1696-1699	Andrew Gudge		
1700-1710	Christopher Farwell, William Glisson and Thomas Wickham	William Day Charles Farr	1700-1702 1703-1710

MANOR OF BEAMINSTER PRIMA ONLY.

1711-1721	Christopher Farwell and Thomas Wickham	Charles Farr Silas Symes	1711-1717 1718-1728
1722-1745	Francis Newman and Thomas Brodrepp	Arthur Symes Merefield Cox	1729-1737 1738-1745
1746	William Stevenson, D.D., and John Hartland	John Cook Baruch Fox	1746-1751 1751-1770
1747-1766	Thomas Wheeler		
1767-1775	John Slade	Baruch Fox (son of last named)	1771-1819
1775-1789	Baruch Fox		
1790-1833	Baruch Fox (son of last named)	Thomas Fox Baruch Fox (son of Thomas)	1820-1831 1832-3
1833-1847	Thomas Fox	Thomas Fox (Lord)	1833-1847
1847-1863	Baruch Fox (son of Thomas)	Baruch Fox (Lord)	1847-1863
1863-4	Joseph Gundry and Benjamin Pearkes Gundry	Nicholas M. Loggin	1863-4
1864-1884	Samuel Symes Cox	Peter Cox	1864-1892
1884-1913	John Russell Cox	John Lane Kitson	1892-1913

MANOR OF BEAMINSTER SECUNDA ONLY.

1711-1713	Christopher Farwell and Thomas Wickham	Charles Farr	1711-1717
1714-1724	Christopher Farwell, Thomas Buckler and Thomas Wickham	Silas Symes	1718-1728
1725-1728	Christopher Farwell and Thomas Buckler		
1729-1754	Thomas Buckler	Arthur Symes Merefield Cox	1729-1737 1738-1754
1755-1759	John Willis	Samuel Foot	1755
1759-1776	Stephen Law, Robert Jones and Richard Roberts	Baruch Fox Ditto and Baruch Fox, Junior	1755-1771 1772-1789
1776-1797	Stephen Law, John Law and Thomas Wall	Baruch Fox (the son)	1790-1797
1797-1822	Samuel Cox	John Banger Russell	1797-1822
1822-1860	Samuel Cox (son of last named)	Peter Cox	1822-1892
1860-1884	Samuel Symes Cox		
1884-1914	John Russell Cox	John Lane Kitson	1892-1914

The following also held manor Courts and signed as "Stewards," but it is pretty clear that each acted as Deputy-Steward for the occasion only—For both manors, Robert Farr (1715), John Collingdon (1763-7): for Prima only, Caleb Cox (1817-9), John Gaiger (1819-22), Robert Hiron (1819-21), Robert Slade (1819-22), Philip Bragge Warren (1821), Giles Russell (1823), Edwin Kiddle (1824-1839), Henry Kiddle (1829), George Wellstead (1844-7), Edwin Slade (1844-60), Abraham Meech (1859-63).

All the above lords except Samuel Symes Cox and John Russell Cox held the manors on lease only, and in many of the older Court Books they are described as "Farmers" of the manors, a term often applied in former times to tenants for lives or years, and not necessarily implying employment in agriculture.

INCLOSURE OF COMMONS.

In the foregoing statement of manorial customs allusion is made to the Common Woods and other Commons of the manor. Prior to 1809 the Parish contained more than 650 acres of land over which the copyholders exercised commonable rights. These several commons or lands were called—

Beaminster Wood Common, Short Moor and Holly Moor,* containing together about ..	235	acres
The East Field and South Field (open and common arable lands)	290	„
Beaminster Down (as still existing) ..	131	„
	<hr/>	
	656	„

Beaminster Wood Common consisted of a strip of land averaging about a quarter mile in breadth and extending rather more than a mile in length, from near Horn Park Farm and Foxhole to Newtown, Chantry and Whatley. The portion of the Tunnel Road below the first milestone and the two lanes leading out of it, one towards Foxhole and the other towards Newtown were then, so far as they existed at all, mere open tracks across this common. Short Moor lay a little to the north of the hamlet still known by

* In the old Manorial Court Rolls this name is sometimes spelled Holy Moore.

that name. And Holly Moor lay on each side of the lane bearing that name and leading towards Langdon. The rights of pasturage on these three last mentioned commons belonged to the owners of copyhold houses in the before mentioned manors of Beaminster Prima and Secunda. Of such houses there were four classes, *viz.* Tenements, Half-Tenements, Cottages and Half-Cottages. Every tenement had three rights, every cottage two, every half-tenement one-and-a-half, and every half-cottage one right.

In the year 1809 the total number of rights was 420, and these were appurtenant to 203 houses owned by about seventy persons. Whether the rights were usually exercised by the owners or occupiers of the houses is not at all clear, but it seems probable that in the great majority of cases they were not exercised at all.

The rights of pasturage were restricted to geldings and "black cattle" (or oxen, the *black* having no reference to colour) and perhaps pigs. Mares and cows were not allowed on the commons.

The South Field adjoined and lay open to Beaminster Down, being bounded on the west and north by the road from White-sheet Hill to Beaminster Bottom, and on the south by the lane from Beaminster Down to Crabb's Barn.

The East Field lay to the east of the South Field, and on the south side of the road from Beaminster Bottom towards Maiden Newton, as far as and including what is now known as "Cox's Gorse."

These two large arable fields belonged in 1809 to about twenty persons, each being entitled to a certain number of one-acre or half-acre plots (more or less defined and probably much scattered), subject nevertheless to the commonable rights of the copyholders of the before mentioned manors, the owner of every tenement having a right to run twenty sheep, the owner of every cottage or half-tenement ten sheep, and the owner of every half-cottage five sheep, over these fields after harvest.

The total number of sheep which the copyholders thus had a right to run was 2,620. About six-sevenths of the whole extent of these fields appear to have been by some means acquired (subject to the before mentioned commonable rights) by the owners of Meerhay, Northfield, Shatcombe, Stonecombe and Axnoller Farms.

There were also formerly some Common lands at or near Axnoller which were enclosed in the reign of Queen

A MAP

of the open Common Arable & Pasture called

THE EAST FIELD and SOUTH FIELD

being within the Limits of the Town of Southfield
as bounded by the River of the City of London

— Prepared in the 31st Year of the reign
of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th

of the late King George the 4th



MAP OF EAST FIELD AND SOUTH FIELD COMMONS. 1809.

Elizabeth, and allotted to copyhold tenants of property there in lieu of their rights over the other Beaminster Commons.

* * * * *

The Court Rolls of the manor of Beaminster Prima contain a presentment of the Homage in July, 1651, as follows—

“The names of the Tenants of Beamister in ye County of Dorset which have consented to the well ordering of the Commons there according to the auncient use and custome, namely to the keeping of sheep only upon Beamister Downe, *viz.* 20 for a Tenem^t and 10 for a Cottage and to the keeping of rother cattle and horse beasts only in Holymoore and in Beamister Woodes: *viz.* 3 for a Tenem^t and 2 for a Cottage, And to ye impounding of the sheepe and other cattle of all strangers that shall bee depastured in any of the said commons, and the sheep and other cattle of all the tenants there that shall bee kept in any of ye same commons contrary to this order And also to the allotting of an indifferent portion of such of the sayd commons as are yet undivided unto every Tenant that hath common there, to the end that every one may have and take to his owne use the furze and other fewell growing upon the portion unto him allotted; and none to intermeddle with another's part. And that two of the same tenants shall be every Yeare elected att ye feast of St. Michael, the Archangell, or within one weeke from thenceforth next ensuing to see these orders put in execution: And they to bee call'd for that yeare Wardens or Overseers of the said commons: And that every tenant offending against any of these orders shall forfeit and pay for every such offence 3s. & 4d., the one moiety whereof to bee to the use of ye Wardens or Overseers aforesaid for the time being; one fourth part to the use of the poore of Beamister aforesaid, & one other fourth p^t to y^e use of the Hayward* of Beamister Downe aforesaid for the time being: And all the sayd forfeitures to be levyed by the Wardens and Overseers aforesaid by distres and sale of the goods of y^e offendo^r. In testimony whereof wee have hereunto subscribed our names or markes even 14th day of October Ano Dmi 1605. Also that no Tenant there shall depasture or keep, nor willingly suffer to bee depastured or kept, any sheep or other cattle in or upon either of the cornfieldes at Beamister Downe aforesayd after such time as any corn or grayne shall bee there sowne and greene untill the same be cutt and carryed away upon paine to forfeit and pay for every such offence 3s. & 4d., the same to bee levied and distributed in manner and form aforesayd. Note that the tenants of Axnoller have no common of pasture in Holymoore nor in Beamister Wood aforesayd, the reason whereof is for that there was allotted unto them about fourty yeares sithence in lew and full satisfaction of all their common in those places a parcell of common called Axnoller Moore (where the residue of the Tenantes of Beamister aforesaid did before that time entercommon with them) and they have now enclosed the Moore to the use and beehoofe of themselves only.”

* Hayward (French—Haye=hedge or enclosure, Garde=Guard). An officer appointed by the manor court to protect the commons from stray cattle from adjoining enclosures.

Here follow the signatures of Sir Robert Strood and forty-six others. Similar Presentments were made in 1658 and 1673 with some others of no special interest. There are also numerous entries of persons being fined for overstocking the commons, stocking same without having a right, and other like offences.

* * * * *

In 1790 a pamphlet was published bearing on its front page the following title—

“COPIES OF LETTERS written in the beginning of the year 1789 respecting the Division and Inclosure of the Commons and Downs belonging to the Manors of Beamister Prima and Beamister Secunda in the County of Dorset. Printed MDCCXC. Sold (only) by Mr. George Hallett, Peruke Maker, Beamister. (Price Six-pence).”

The four letters are anonymous, the writer of two of them signing himself “A Tenant,” and the writer of the other two “A Real Tenant.” There is little doubt that the actual correspondents and disputants were Baruch Fox and John Banger Russell, two well-known Beaminster attorneys and solicitors, the former being then Steward of the Manor of Beaminster Prima and also representing Sir William Oglander, owner of Parnham, Horn Park, etc., and the latter being Steward of Beaminster Secunda and acting for Mr. Samuel Cox, who was then regarded as the Squire of Beaminster and was the largest owner of the commonable rights.

A Preface states that the letters—

“Were written in consequence of a proposal made at the Easter Vestry in the year 1789 for dividing and inclosing the Commons and Downs belonging to the Manors of Beamister Prima and Beamister Secunda, two Prebends or Manors anciently founded in the Cathedral Church of Salisbury. Though anonymous, they are deemed by the tenants of those Manors to be of so interesting a nature as to deserve to be handed down to their Posterity.”

The letters are too lengthy and verbose to be set out at length, but a few extracts may be of interest as illustrating the style of correspondence indulged in in those days, and also the customs relating to the commons.

The first letter (dated 20th April, 1789) is addressed “To the Tenants in Beamister who hold Tenements and

Cottages in the said Town, which give a Right of Common thereto annexed, under the Lord of the Manors of Beamister Prima and Beamister Secunda"; and in it "A Tenant" argued that the motion made and supported at the recent Easter Vestry for an application to Parliament for a bill to carry the inclosure into effect, was "fraught with the most baneful consequences to the tenants in general, being a measure that must unavoidably distress the inhabitants to a very great degree, and bid fair in a few years to depopulate the town"; and, in denying the truth of a statement by the advocates for inclosure that they derived no benefit from their rights of commonage, he says—

"I by no means wish to convey the most distant insinuation in prejudice of the veracity of those gentlemen, rather thinking that the circumstance of their stocking (in part) the common, might have escaped their memory, and was not then within the reach of their recollection; for in the non-sporting vacation I have seen both the high-bred hunter and prouder coach-horse enjoying sweet repast on the verdant herbage of this generous soil, and that not as transient guests only, but stationary as the wretched driller* of a vile lime-cart. Besides many of those gentlemen have reared from colts many a hardy useful horse by running them there the whole and every summer, this being a very common practice and of real use to the inhabitants. It is also a very common proceeding here with many of those gentlemen who have rights in the common, to let those rights with their lands adjoining; and, since this inclosing scheme has been set on foot, one of the tenants renting such lands has been known to say that the inclosure would injure his estate to the amount of ten pounds a year One of those gentlemen can, I believe, with some kind of propriety, deny his having received much benefit from the common for a few years past, having never seen his present valuable horse there, and, being very partial to a few old favourite mares, the other part of his stud, he is thereby precluded by ancient custom from taking that advantage therefrom, as that kind of stock is not allowed to depasture thereon. The lands which at present compose the different commons in Beaminster are calculated to be about 210 acres, which give a right of pasture to about 400 head of geldings and black cattle; the expense of getting the Act of Parliament and putting up the fences is computed to exceed £800; the lands which will be wasted in the formation of the different roads and hedges are also calculated to be 60 acres, which will reduce the whole number of improveable acres of land inclosed to 150; and that, divided into 400 parts, will produce not more than one yard and a half of land to each share, under an expense of 40s. If those facts are true, and the statement just, which I am confident can be made apparent to the satisfaction of every impartial person, will anyone then be found to come forward and say that this inclosing scheme can be productive of any good consequence as a public measure? I presume not

* Some dictionaries give "drill v. to draw."

It is therefore hoped that the projectors of this plan will either recede from such destructive pursuits, or otherwise a firm and determined opposition will be made to it. Convene a public meeting; investigate the matter; solicit the aid of the honourable inhabitants of P—n—m, the owners of which mansion have been considered, on all trying occasions, as the protectors and natural guardians of the rights of our town; call in also the assistance of the present respectable lord* of those manors, who, from motives of humanity, as well as interest, will, I presume, assist you both as a gentleman and a professional man. This done, I cannot think you can possibly fail of a successful opposition, which I trust will for ever destroy the hopes of future success in such a cause. That we may hand down to posterity, unimpaired, those small privileges which our ancestors conveyed to us in a perfect state; this is the ardent wish of your's

A TENANT.

Beamister, *20th April, 1789.*"

Ten days later "A Real Tenant" writes to the tenants of the Manors that the scheme is not one—

"Which has been rashly taken up as the wild project of some needy Adventurer, who entertains hopes of enriching himself at the Expense of the Public; but is built on the firm Basis of general Utility The Waste Lands in question consist of two Commons, which contain 210 acres or upwards, and of two Downs† which are not less than 1500 or 2000 acres. In the first Geldings and Black Cattle only are depastured; a considerable part of the latter is employed as a nursery for Furze with a very scanty Proportion of Corn, and the Stubble is fed on by Sheep. The right of Common is generally annexed to the Houses, and there are but few Farms which partake of the Advantage. In former days the Commons were covered with Wood, which was employed in the support of the Buildings on the several Tenements, with a right only to run Pigs in Autumn, to feed on the Acorns and Beech Mast with which the Woods abounded. The right of pasture as at present enjoyed, is derived from modern usage only, and the Cattle which are now depastured there, are not such as were once the Tenants of the hospitable shade. A part of the Commons of Beamister was inclosed in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth and allotted to the Tenants of Axnoller.

More than 400 Acres of the Down were never employed in Agriculture, but remain in the same state of Barrenness as Nature first left them. Of the other parts scarcely a tenth is employed in Tillage, the Owner either attempts to derive a Profit from a Crop of Furze, or abandons his Property to the Invasion of the first Intruder, whose Conscience is

* At the date of this letter Baruch Fox, the supposed writer thereof, was himself lord of Prima and steward of Secunda Manor.

† Beaminster Down was certainly the only commonable down then existing in the Parish, and this with the open arable lands adjoining contained less than 450 acres. The writer may have had in his mind Buckham Down already enclosed, or possibly Corscombe Down lands near or adjoining Beaminster Down. His figures "1500 or 2000" seem very excessive.

Beaminster Parish contains, as per Ordnance Survey, 5190·315 acres.

not disposed to tell him that it is a crime to take what is not his own. I believe I may venture to assert that the whole Produce of the Downs in Question is very far short of £200 a Year ; and if there is any man who will attempt to maintain that such Land is in its Nature incapable of improvement, or that the Owner could not derive superior Emoluments from his Corn Lands if enclosed and manured than he now does when lying dispersed, oftentimes not cropped, and when cropped scarcely repaying the expense of the Husbandman, he is such a one on whom Argument would be employed in vain. The many Thousand Sheep which have been destroyed by the Rot on those Downs call aloud for an Inclosure ; and as no other Cattle are allowed to depasture there, the Proprietor must either give up his Right or endanger the safety of his Flock. If on the other Hand the Downs were enclosed, Corn would be produced in great Abundance, which would afford Employment for the Labourer, and Bread for his Family, Black Cattle of all Kinds would feed on that Grass which now lies neglected and a very Incumbrance to the Ground ; and by means of proper Drains for carrying off the overflowing of the Waters even the Sheep would depasture without any Risque. What Profit is made at present by those Persons whose Interest claims our first attention ? It is the Stranger whose Situation is more commodious for the Purpose that engrosses the whole Produce to himself. . . . If the Expense of an Act of Parliament has alarmed any timorous Proprietor, who is not willing to appropriate any great part of the Commons to that Purpose, his Fears will be lulled, when he reflects that more than one half of the whole charge will be defrayed by the Owners of the Corn Lands on the Downs. . . .

With Respect to the Commons, I can by no means allow that they will maintain 300 Head of Cattle for six Months in the Year, with a Profit of 12s. a Head : but admitting the Doctrine to be true, how comes it to pass that no Owner can lett his Right of Pasture for more than 2s. a Year for each Head of Cattle, and at a Time when more than 100 of the Rights are never stocked at all ? Besides the only thing that ought to be considered is the Profit which is made by the Proprietors, for if they by letting their rights can only get 2s. a Year for each, the Advantages which are now made by them from the Commons, when taken collectively will amount only to £40 a year, the whole Number of Rights not exceeding 400. The Interest of other Persons is nothing to the Purpose. If we should admit . . . that only 150 Acres of the Commons would remain to be enclosed . . . still those 150 Acres would be worth 30s. an Acre, amounting in the whole to £225 a Year, whilst at present if the whole Rights were to be lett, they would not bring to the Owners more then £40 a Year, so that to them there would be a clear Gain of £180 a Year or upwards, as great part of the 150 Acres would soon exceed the Value at which they have been rated. The Sheep Pastures have never amounted to the Sum of £40 a Year, though the Lands that would be allotted to the Proprietors in lieu of those Pastures would be more than 600 Acres, which would at the least produce an Income very little short of £300 per Annum. Is it not then the Interest of the Owners to have the Waste Lands inclosed ? If the thing is considered in a National View, it will surely be admitted that Land when enclosed and drained, will be more productive than when over-run with Ant-Hills, Furze and Heath, and in many Parts very wet and marshy. Let us also examine how an Inclosure will affect the Landholders in general, who have no

Rights in the Commons or Downs. As a very considerable Quantity of cultivated Lands will be added to the Parish, they will become liable to be rated towards the maintenance of the Poor, of whose Increase we have of late Years heard such frequent Complaints. If only £50 a Year could be raised from the Downs and Commons, each present Payer will have an abatement of one tenth of his whole Poor-Rate; and the deduction to be made from the sum which he pays annually to the Land Tax will be in proportion.

The Mechanic and the Labourer will also be benefitted by an Inclosure, new Sources of Employment will arise, and . . . the diligent and industrious will have no reason to complain of a want of Work.

Beamister, 30th April, 1789.

A REAL TENANT."

In the next letter, which is of great length, "A Tenant" says—

"Gentlemen,

The Scheme of an inclosure of the common lands within the Parish of Beamister, was never supposed to be a measure rashly taken up by any needy adventurer, being known to be a favourits object of a certain opulent individual, by which acquisition he cannot be made rich, but the humble cottager may thereby be made poor indeed. Although the proposal was new and unexpected to many at the Easter vestry, yet a chosen few were previously gained over, and led to support the measure; and others being taken by surprise, who, before the next setting sun, heartily thanked the few disinterested characters who there opposed the inimical scheme, and now with them join in every fair and peaceable method most likely to avert the threatened destruction.

I agree with my learned opposite, that it is very probable that those commons in ancient times were covered with wood; from hence they seem to have derived their names; and that this wood or timber was employed for the support of the buildings of the several tenements within the said manors: and being thus filled with trees, and covered with underwood, was perhaps the reason why no other animal fed there but the unclean swine, not being a suitable range for beasts of a more exalted nature.

The bright luminary of science, which its brighter author benignly caused to rise with unclouded beams in our western hemisphere, has never yet diffused light sufficient for the purpose of discovering to us any good that can possibly result from the inclosure of such lands, as is the subject of the present controverted question; nor were the inhabitants of Beamister, at any one period, ever sensible of any advantage to be derived from the inclosure of their common lands, the matter of Axnoller not being a case in point, nor bearing strict analogy thereto. Prior to the reign of Henry VII the tenants of Beamister had a right of intercommoning stock on a certain common, called Axnoller Moor, and the tenants of Axnoller had the same right of intercommonage in Holly Moor and Wood Common, but the local distance of Beamister Commons from the Axnoller tenants, and the Axnoller Common from the Beamister tenants, made it a matter of prudent conveniency to each, to keep their own common, and, in lieu thereof, to give up their right in those commons

of more distant situation. This I apprehend was done by mutual agreement, being to mutual advantage ; the consequence was that the tenants of Axnoller being few in number, found it of more utility to separate and inclose their shares, each share, I doubt not, being a considerable inclosure, and this effected without any expense, being done by unanimous consent. This transaction might have taken place in Elizabeth's time ; but there seems to be an ancient presentment in *prima court*, which states it to have been done before ; this however is of no consequence.

My opponent goes on to make wrong statements, drawn from false premises, by wishing you to believe what never did nor ever will happen to be the case, *viz.* that the commons do not produce to the whole proprietary more than £40 a year : and to support this curious statement, he would wish to insinuate that the whole of the 400 rights have been let in one year at two shillings each, making in the whole the said sum of £40. But, pray, sir, when did this ever happen ? Can you point out any one single year wherein the bare pasture of horses alone (not to say a word of the herds of black cattle feeding thereon), belonging to actual tenants, or nearly so, was worth less than £80 ? Perhaps you are ignorant that a horse lease in Beamister Common is worth full two guineas. If you wish to be convinced of the truth of this statement, do but go to Bridport, or any other town not having a common, and see in what a state of starvation horses are there kept, which cost their owners from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per week, and this advantage is with very few exceptions enjoyed by the tenant and not the alien, and that yearly and every year. Now, sir, if the famous scheme of selling Holly Moor Common should take place, do you think the capital inclosure of a quarter of an acre* of land in Wood Common a sufficient equivalent to the poor cottager, for the loss of his beneficial right of pasture on the whole of that hallowed land ? Don't you think it is a sacrifice, from which nature, reason, and humanity, shrink aghast ?

Beamister, *May 2d*, 1789.

A TENANT."

The advantages of the proposed enclosure are summed up in the following letter, which closes the correspondence.

" Gentlemen—

The Advocate for an Inclosure of the Waste Lands within the Parish of Beamister, having neither leisure nor inclination, to draw up a formal reply to the Arguments of the very fair and candid Writer on the other side, now takes his leave of the Subject, by stating the following propositions, which he deems indisputable.

I.—That the Waste Lands in Beamister consist of two Commons and two Downs, the former of which are appropriated to the feeding of Geldings and Kine, the latter to the feeding of Sheep, and that the Rights of Pasture are limited as to Number, and belong to the Proprietors of Tenements and Cottages.

* The actual allotments averaged all but half an acre to each right.

II.—That the term Cottages in the Manors in Question, is not used in the common and general sense of that word, but that the same is often applied to a Capital Mansion House with its Appendages, and not unfrequently to a considerable Tract of Land on part of which a Building of that denomination formerly stood, and that Cottagers properly so called have no rights of pasture on the said commonable Lands.

III.—That on a part of the Downs appointed for the Purpose, Corn is sometimes sown, but that the Produce is in general very inconsiderable.

IV.—That sheep have been often tainted by feeding on the Downs, whilst those which were depastured on the adjoining inclosed Lands, have not been subject to the same complaint.

V.—That great part of the Grass growing on the Downs is suffered every Year to remain unconsumed, and an Incumbrance to the Ground, for want of proper Cattle to feed there.

VI.—That the commons are in many Places very wet and Marshy, and incumbered with Ant-hills, Furze and Heath.

VII.—That such Lands, both Commons and Downs, are capable of improvement, and that they cannot receive such improvement but by means of inclosing, when every Proprietor would be able to cultivate his share in such manner as he thought proper.

VIII.—That the Interest of a few Individuals ought not to be regarded, when set in competition with manifest Advantages to the Public in General, and that it is next to an impossibility to propose a measure which may not prove injurious to a particular order of Men, or a particular Person.

It is admitted that it would be most adviseable to have an Inclosure without the expense of an Act of Parliament, and that the allotment ought not to be separated from the Tenements and Cottages to which the Right of Pasture is annexed. The Author of this Address is so strongly impressed with the utility of the measure which has been the subject of investigation, that in case a total Inclosure should be rejected by the Tenants, he wishes to submit to their consideration a Resolution of the Prima Homage in the Year 1658, when it was ordered by John Strode, Esq., and fourteen of the principal Inhabitants of the Town, that 'the Commons of Beaminster Woods and Hollymoor should be divided into six parts, each part to belong only to so many Tenements and Cottages as should be agreed on, to the end that such Tenements and Cottages might solely enjoy to themselves the Pasturage and Fewel of each part.'

Note.—If the Gentleman who entertains different sentiments from the present Writer would consult the Prima Presentments for the years 1658 and 1673, he will find that Axnoller Moor was inclosed in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, and allotted to the Tenants there. It would be a circumstance of great advantage to the owners of Lands in the two Manors, if a subscription was opened for printing the Customs, and a few select Presentments of the Homage, as many Persons materially interested are but little acquainted with the nature of their Tenure.

May 15th, 1789.

(Signed) A REAL TENANT."

* * * * *

In 1804 (three years after the date of the foregoing correspondence), being the forty-fourth year of the Reign of King George the Third, an Act of Parliament was passed entitled *An Act for Inclosing Lands in the Parish of Beaminster in the County of Dorset*. The preamble stated that there were within the said Parish of Beaminster certain open and common arable lands or fields called the East Field and the South Field, containing together by estimation 290 acres or thereabouts, and also certain Commons, tracts, or pieces of commonable pasture land called Beaminster Wood, Shortmoore, and Holleymoore, containing together by estimation 235 acres or thereabouts. And that the said lands were capable of great improvement, and great benefit would accrue to the proprietors interested therein, if the same were divided and inclosed and specific allotments and shares thereof allotted unto the several proprietors, in proportion to their rights and interests therein. The Act then proceeded to appoint Thomas Davis of Horningham, Wilts, Commissioner for dividing, allotting and inclosing the said lands ; and directed him, after setting out roads over the same, to allot the residue in distinct parcels amongst the persons interested therein, in proportion to the value of their respective rights ; but as regards the East Field and South Field, instead of awarding allotments to the persons entitled to the aftershare therein (which would be attended with great expense and inconvenience by reason of the small quantity of land which such allotments would contain), the Commissioner was directed to ascertain the value of such aftershare, in proportion to the foreshare or right of crop therein (regard being had to the different qualities and sorts of land and the mode of husbandry, succession and order of crop and interval of rest observed and allowed therein by ancient usage and custom), and, after allotting the lands to the several persons entitled to the foreshare or right of crop, to direct what sums should be paid by the last mentioned persons to and for the use of the several persons entitled to the aftershare or right of pasture by way of compensation ; and it was directed that these sums should be paid to the Commissioner and be applied towards payment of the expenses of carrying the Act into execution.

And the Act provided that the lands to be set out and allotted thereunder, should be held for the same estates and be subject to the same tenures, customs, heriots, ser-

vices, and incumbrances as the respective tenements, etc., in respect whereof such allotments should be made.

By the same Act it was also enacted that the Open and Common Down or Field of Pasture called Beaminster Down, otherwise the West Down, which adjoined and lay open to the South Field thereby intended to be inclosed, should remain open and uninclosed, and should be fed and depastured by Sheep as theretofore it had been used and accustomed, but in the proportions and subject to the regulations thereafter mentioned, *viz.*—Every owner of every *Tenement** lying within, and parcel of, the several Manors of Beaminster Prima and Beaminster Secunda having right of pasture on the said Common Down, his Lessee, Farmer, or Undertenant, should feed and depasture thereon four sheep and no more; and every owner of a *Cottage** in the same Manors (having right, etc., as above) two sheep and no more, and so in proportion for more or less than a Tenement or Cottage. And that the Poor of the Parish of Beaminster aforesaid, should at all times for ever thereafter have the right of Turbary† and of cutting, taking, and carrying away Furze, Heath, and Fuel, on or from the said Common Down, in as full and beneficial a manner as they had theretofore used and been accustomed.

* * * * *

The Commissioners' Award under the Inclosure Act is dated 23rd June, 1809, and by it the East Field and South Field before mentioned were parcelled out in twenty-one allotments, varying in size from $1\frac{1}{4}$ acres to 66 acres, between the persons theretofore entitled to the foreshare in or right to crop these two fields, they paying between them,

* It must be borne in mind that here, as elsewhere in this chapter, the words "Tenement" and "Cottage" have a technical or restricted meaning; also that, inasmuch as the commonable rights depend upon ancient custom and cannot be newly acquired, the existence and extent of a Copyholder's commonable rights is not determined by the present character of his buildings. The practical test is whether his property is heriotable or not. If it is he will find it so mentioned at the foot of his "Admission." Every heriot practically confers a right on the Down for four sheep and every half heriot a right for two sheep. (See page 260).

† Turbary is a right of digging turf on a common, or upon another man's ground, In Stephen's Commentaries on the Laws of England it is stated (quoting Valentine V. Penny, Noy 145) that Common of Turbary cannot be claimed as appurtenant to land, but only to a house, and that it authorises not the taking of turf except for the purpose of using the same as fuel in the particular house to which the right is annexed. From this it may be inferred that the Poor of Beaminster may only dig turf on the Down for *their own use as fuel*.



MAP OF BEAMMINSTER WOOD AND SHORT MOOR COMMONS. 1809.

as apportioned by a Schedule to the Award, £353 14s. *od.* (or about 26s. per acre) as the then value of the rights of aftershare therein. The Commons were also divided into seventy enclosures, allotted to the several owners of the rights of pasturage thereon, every such allotment being treated as copyhold, and as appurtenant to and passing with, although capable of being severed from, the copyhold tenement or cottage in respect of which it was allotted. On an average rather more than half-an-acre was allotted in respect of every commonable right, that is to say, about one-and-a-half acres for every "Tenement" and one acre for every "Cottage." But the extent varied a good deal, the Commissioner having, as stated in his Award, paid due regard to the quality, situation, and convenience, as well as the quality of the lands allotted.

Three Maps are annexed to the Award, reduced photographic copies of which are here given, shewing the Allotments in—

1. The East Field and South Field.
2. Beaminster Wood and Shortmoor Commons.
3. Hollymoor Common.

The Award also contains (among others) the following statements and provisions—

1.—It states that Thomas Davis, the Commissioner appointed by the *Inclosure Act* for carrying it into execution (who died before the Award was completed and was succeeded by his son of the same name) had appointed John Banger Russell of Beaminster, Gentleman, to be his Clerk, and Henry Legg of Mapperton, Farmer, and John Pitfield of Symondsbury, Farmer, both of whom appeared to him (the Commissioner) to be well acquainted with the Commons (having for a long time resided and occupied large farms in the neighbourhood thereof), to assist him in valuing and dividing the same.

2.—Certain roads (some public and others for the use of certain allotment owners only) across the Commons were set out as shewn on the maps, and it was directed that the soil thereof should belong to the Lords of the Manors of Beaminster Prima and Beaminster Secunda, and that (except as to such as were Public Highways repairable by the Parish authorities), they should be maintained and repaired by the owners of the adjoining allotments as in the Award mentioned.

3.—Reference is made to a certain Quarry or Chalk pit in the South Field, marked in the map with the letter Y and containing 3*a.* or. 4*p.*, which was left open and uninclosed, and was by the Commissioner directed to be continued and enjoyed for the purpose of digging chalk by all persons who were owners or occupiers of lands lying within the said Manors having a customary right to dig chalk therein.

4.—The Commissioner directed that the owners and occupiers of the several allotments, parts of Beaminster Wood Common, should lawfully water their cattle at and in the watercourse running through the allotment of William Williams, numbered 8 in the map, at a certain place marked in the map Ai.* And that the owners and occupiers of the allotment in Holleymoore might water their cattle at and in the watercourse called Woodswater, running across the road in the Common marked M.†

5.—It was ordered that the owners and occupiers of the several allotments should make, and at all times repair and maintain such of the gates, stiles, posts, bars, hedges, ditches, and fences, delineated in the before mentioned maps on their sides of the division lines, on which the representation of the hedges was drawn.

6.—It may be deduced from the Award and its Schedules that the expenses of obtaining the Inclosure Act and carrying it into execution (including fencing, draining, and making roads, bridges and other conveniences), amounted to £1,481 17*s.* 9*d.* (or about £3 2*s.* 0*d.* for every acre of land enclosed) and that this amount was levied and raised thus—

	£	s.	d.
From the owners of the Foreshare in the East			
Field and South Field	276	10	3‡
From the owners of the Aftershare and rights			
of common	1205	7	6§
	<hr/>		
	£1481	17	9

* *Viz.* in Cock-road Lane leading out of the Broadwindsor Road towards Foxhole. A pond still exists at this spot.

† This watering place is by the footbridge or ford crossed by the footpath leading to Langdon and Shatcombe.

‡ Paid by the Foreshare owners in addition to the £353 14*s.* 0*d.* for the purchase of, or as compensation for, the aftershare (see page 275).

§ Including the above £353 14*s.* 0*d.*, to the benefit of which they were entitled, but which was directed by the Act (see page 273) to be applied towards the expenses. It may be assumed that credit was given them for this in assessing their share of expenses at £17 13*s.* 9*d.* + £833 19*s.* 9*d.* making (with the £353 14*s.* 0*d.*) £1,205 7*s.* 6*d.*

these sums being apportioned between the owners as shewn in four Schedules annexed to the Award.

The following Table, compiled expressly for this work from the Inclosure Award and its Schedules, shews—

- (1) The names of the persons to whom allotments were made ;
- (2) The general situation of the houses to which their commonable rights were theretofore attached ;
- (3) The total number of rights of common to which each person had been entitled ;
- (4) The extent of land allotted to each person in lieu of those rights ;
- (5) The Nos. on the map annexed to the Award by which each person's allotments were distinguished ;
- (6) The number of rights of aftershare or of pasturing sheep after harvest on the East Field and South Field theretofore appurtenant to the before mentioned houses.

I.—ALLOTMENTS IN SHORTMOOR COMMON.

To whom made.	Situation of Tenements.	No. of rights.	Extent of allotment.			No. on map.	No. of sheep rights
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)			(5)	(6)
			A.	R.	P.		
Coward, William	... Foreplace, Church St., etc.	... 12	3	3	17	56	65
Conway, Henry	... Northfield, etc. ...	... 3½	1	3	33	55	20
Cox, Sam. (Trustees of)	... North St. ...	... 3	1	1	33	54	20
Hallett, Stephen (Hitt's trustee)	...	... 3	1	0	15	57	20
		21½	8	1	18		125

II.—ALLOTMENTS IN HOLLYMOOR COMMON.

Bishop, Daniel	...	Shatcombe	...	... 16	11	2	26	62	105
Clift, William	...	East St. and North St.	...	... 10	4	1	17	63	70
Cook, Thos. (exchange with Fox, T.)	...	Prout Bridge, Coombe, etc.	...	... 8½	6	3	14	68	50
Cox, W. T. and Symes, R.	...	East St. and North St.	...	... 7½	3	2	32	66	50
Warr, John	...	East St. and Foreplace	...	... 7	4	1	15	67	40
Cook, T. (exchange with Fox, B.)	...	East St.	...	... 6½	4	2	22	69	40
Read, Simon and James	...	East St. and Linhams	...	... 6	3	1	12	61	30
Strong, Thomas	...	East St., Church St., North St.	...	... 5	2	3	19	60	30
Dunning, Phillis and Betty	...	East St.	...	... 3	1	2	14	58	20
Wheadon, George	...	Ditto	...	... 3	1	2	14	59	20
Silk, George	...	East St. and Shedrick St.	...	... 3	1	1	34	64	15
Silk, William	...	...	...	... 1½	0	2	26	65	10
Cox, Samuel	...	...	...	... —	0	0	36	70	5
				<u>77</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>485</u>

III.—ALLOTMENTS IN BEAMINSTER WOOD COMMON.

To whom made.	Situation of Tenements.	No. of rights.	Extent of allotment.	No. of on sheep map.	No. of rights
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
			A. R. P.		
Cox, Samuel ...	Various ...	39	30 0	16	230
Eveleigh, Wm. Gerrard ...	Foreplace, etc. ...	29½	16 1	14	165
Clarke, Wm., and his trustee	Meerhay, Whitesheet, etc. ...	23½	12 1	34 1, 7, 8	115
Russell, Giles ...	Prout Bridge, Greyhound, etc. ...	20½	8 3	28	120
Russell, John and J. B. ...	Various ...	19	6 3	35	110
Chubb, Wm. and Sarah ...	Ditto ...	13	4 3	21	80
Pester, John ...	Ditto ...	11½	5 1	6	70
Oglander, Sir Wm. ...	Coombe Down, Edmundcombe, etc. ...	10½	6 3	33	60
Harris, Thomas ...	North St. and Hogshill St. ...	9	5 0	16	50
Barrett, Joseph ...	Fleet St. and North St. ...	8½	2 3	28	45
Oliver, John ...	Meerhay, Hogshill St., and near the Horsepool ...	8	3 2	9	50
Cook, Thomas ...	Sturshams, Clapitts, etc. ...	7½	3 1	9	22
Barratt, Samuel ...	Hogshill St., St. Mary Well St., etc. ...	7½	3 3	0	46
Russell, Mary and Cox, Ann (trustees of Sam. Cox, dec.)	Foreplace and Fleet St. ...	7½	2 3	12	48
Daniel, Eliz. and Cox, Ann (trustees of Sam. Cox, dec.)	Meerhay and North St. ...	6	2 2	2	47
Hine, James ...	North St. ...	6	2 2	28	44
Hine, Richard ...	Foreplace, Hogshill St. and Shed- rick St. ...	6	2 1	32	45
Pope, B. and Pester, J. ...	Hogshill St. ...	5	2 0	15	33
Conway, Wm. ...	Foreplace ...	5	2 0	9	28
Cox, Sam. and Sam., Junr. ...	Woodswater, etc. ...	4½	3 1	28	18
Rendall, John ...	St. Mary Well St. ...	4½	1 3	1	24
Meech, Rebecca ...	Lane's Bridge and East St. ...	4	3 0	36	10
Goldsworthy, Rich. ...	Hogshill St. ...	4	3 0	36	20
Daniel, Mary (Axminster) ...	Shedrick St. ...	4	1 0	39	25
Symes, Susannah ...	Green-Dragon and Prout Bridge ...	4	1 2	4	32
Hake, Mary and Pearce ...	Whatley and Meerhay ...	3½	1 1	10	53
Cox, Daniel and D., Jun. ...	North St. ...	3	2 1	32	16
Daniel, John (Surgeon) Ditto (Trustees of)	Foreplace ... Knolle ...	3 1½	1 3 1 0	37 10	12 11
Wheadon, James ...	Prout Bridge ...	3	1 0	26	37
Davis, J. Lewis ...	Prout Bridge ...	3	1 1	27	43
Lambe, Markes ...	East St. ...	3	1 1	24	43
Galpin, Joseph ...	Hogshill St. ...	3	1 0	10	27
Symes, J. (Conway's trustee)	Coombe ...	3	1 0	29	29
Cox, S. (in exchange with Bishop) ...	Shatcombe ...	3	2 0	0	19
Harris, Robert ...	Hogshill St. and Foreplace ...	2½	1 2	23	39
Pearce, Thomas ...	Meerhay and Foreplace ...	2½	1 2	2	52
Pearce, John ...	Church St. ...	2			
Oliver, William ...	Fleet St. ...	2	2 0	25	13
Daniel, Mary (widow) ...	Church St. ...	2	2 1	9	14
Minterne, William ...	North St. ...	2	0 3	8	36
Hopkins, Elizabeth ...	Peasehill ...	2	1 0	32	40
Rendall, Joseph ...	Church St. ...	2	0 3	27	23
Barratt, William ...	Hogshill St. ...	2	1 0	1	31
Atkins, Grace ...	Wood Close ...	1½	0 3	16	38
Barratt, John and Thos. ...	Fleet Street ...	1½	0 2	21	41
Seymour, Henry ...	Meerhay ...	1½	0 3	0	42
Daniel, John (Axminster) ...	Higher Moor Meads ...	1½	0 2	23	26
		321½	169 0	3	1870

IV.—ALLOTMENTS IN THE EAST FIELD AND SOUTH FIELD

To whom made.		(Adjoining Beaminster Down).	Extent.			No. of sheep on map.	No. of rights
			A.	R.	P.		
Clarke, William	...	(Owner of Meerhay)*	...	74	0	28	15, 16
Cox, Samuel	...	(Owner of Northfield)*	...	52	0	28	13, 21
Bishop, Daniel	...	(Owner of Shatcombe)*	...	40	0	30	10, 11
Maxwell, Jas. Primrose	...	(Owner of Stonecombe)*	...	21	0	38	12
Bowring, Joseph	...	(Owner of Axnoller)*	...	20	3	16	18
Pope, Mary (Widow)	...	Ditto ditto	...	12	3	11	19
Harris, Thomas	...	(Owner of land at Meerhay)*	...	12	0	9	9
Bridge, Richard	...	(Leaseholder of Langdon ?)*	...	8	2	26	20
Daniel, James and Eliz.	...	...	...	6	3	11	1
Conway, William	...	...	...	4	0	20	5
Hearn, John	...	...	...	3	1	8	6
Lawrence, William	...	...	...	3	0	0	14
Gill, John	...	...	...	2	3	9	7
Daniel, Mary (Widow)	...	...	...	2	2	25	8
Ewens, Elizabeth	...	...	...	2	0	33	2
Rendall, John	...	...	...	2	0	16	4
Pearce, John and Thos.	...	...	...	1	3	32	3
Fowler, Susannah	...	...	...	1	1	28	17
			A.	272	2	8	140


* These properties are not mentioned in the Award but are gathered from other sources.

SUMMARY OF THE FOREGOING.

				Rights of common.	Extent of allotments.		
					A.	R.	P.
Beaminster Wood Common	...	...	...	321½	169	0	3
Shortmoor	...	...	...	21½	8	1	18
Hollymoor	...	...	...	77	47	1	1
Totals of rights and allotments in the three Commons				419½	224	2	22
				Sheep rights			
East Field and South Field				2620	272	2	8
Total extent of lands enclosed and allotted				...	A. 497	0	30

Chapter XI.

VOLUNTEERS.

T was the war of the French Revolution in 1793 which brought about the first real establishment of Volunteer Forces, although "Trained Bands" had been organized as early as 1585, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

James I reorganized the military forces, and in the reign of George II—1758—an Act of Parliament was passed respecting Volunteers, ordering that "If the Churchwardens or Overseers of a Parish produce any number of approved Volunteers (other than seamen or sea-faring men) the Deputy Lieutenant of that part of the County is empowered to accept such Volunteers in lieu of an equivalent number of the Parish quota."

In April, 1794, George III authorized the raising of independent Volunteer Corps; they were not subject to military discipline, except when on active service, nor entitled to pay. An Act of Parliament was passed "For the encouragement and disciplining of such Corps or Companies of Men who shall voluntarily enrol themselves for the defence of their towns or coasts, or for the general defence of the Kingdom, during the present War."

The feeling of patriotism now stimulated the country generally and the Volunteer movement increased so rapidly that the estimated number of men enrolled between the years 1798-1804 was no less than 410,000. In the various regiments great enthusiasm prevailed, and keen *esprit-de-corps* was maintained.

Most of the corps were known by the names of the towns from which they were raised. All ranks were fully equipped and clothed, the uniforms being most attractive and picturesque, while the majority of the corps carried colours, which were in many instances worked and pre-

sented by ladies of the immediate locality, who thus shewed their sympathy with the Volunteer movement.

At the time of the "Great Terror" (1796-1805) when Napoleon threatened the invasion of England, and the men of Dorset stood to arms, an Infantry Corps of Volunteers was established in Beaminster.

Beacons set on the heights around only needed kindling to flash the tidings of Bonaparte's landing had his army set foot on our shores. At Toller Down, Lewesdon, Lambert's Castle, Shipton and Thorncombe Hills, large stacks of wood were placed ready for firing at a moment's notice.

About this period Semaphores or Hill Telegraphs were introduced, whereby code messages were signalled from point to point. A chain of stations extended from London to Plymouth. One of the signal houses with its apparatus was erected at Toller Down, near the turnpike gate. Here messages were received from a station at High Stoy and transmitted to Lambert's Castle.

The Semaphore consisted of a framework with movable shutters, each painted black with a white spot or hole in the centre. To the cranks which worked the shutters ropes were attached, these passed through the roof of the operating shed underneath.

Each station was usually in charge of an officer and two men, one of whom was always on duty, applying his eye to fixed telescopes directed to the stations right and left of him. At night there was nothing to do but keep watch for the light of the beacon fires.

After Waterloo the hill telegraphs became comparatively useless; for a time however the Government continued to work them, until they were finally abandoned about the year 1828.

Towards the protection of the country when "Invasion" was a familiar word in every home, eighty-four townsmen of Beaminster formed themselves into a corps of infantry, known as the "Beaminster Loyal Town Volunteers."

The parchment roll—5 feet in length—contains the rules, regulations, and accoutrements of the Corps, also the signatures of the citizen soldiers therein enrolled.

The following is a transcript of the document—

WE, the undersigned Inhabitants of the Town of Beaminster and its Neighbourhood within the Division of Bridport in the County of Dorset, do hereby agree to form ourselves into a Corps of Infantry under the Command of Samuel Cox the Younger, Esquire, and the Officers acting

under him for the Defence of the said Town and Neighbourhood, to the Distance of eight miles therefrom, in pursuance of an Act passed in the Present Session of Parliament, intituled "An Act to enable his Majesty more effectually to provide for the Defence and Security of the Realm during the present War, and for indemnifying persons who may suffer in their property by such Measures as may be necessary for that purpose. And we do further agree to abide by and in all respects to conform and pay implicit Obedience to the several Rules, Articles, and Regulations hereunder written, under the several Penalties and Forfeitures thereto annexed. WITNESS our hands at Beaminster the twenty-second day of June in the Year of our Lord, One thousand seven hundred and Ninety Eight.

Sam ^l Cox Jun ^r , <i>Captain</i> .	Giles Russell	} <i>Sergeants</i> .
Baruch Fox		
Jn ^o B. Russell		} <i>Lieutenants</i> .
Jo ^s Bishop, <i>Ensign</i> .	W ^m Ge ^a Eveleigh	
Henry Willmott, <i>Serjeant-Major</i> .	Sam ^l Willmott	} <i>Corporals</i> .
	James Fry	

Certain standing Rules for the Regulation and Government of the Beaminster Loyal Town Volunteers.

N.B. The Services of this Corps are limited to the Town of Beaminster, and the Distance of eight miles therefrom.

Rule 1st—The Lieutenants, Ensign, Noncommissioned Officers and privates are to pay implicit Obedience to all authorized Commands of the Captain, and in his Absence to the authorized Commands of the Senior Officer on Duty.

2^d—The Corps are to meet not less than twice a Week for the purpose of exercising, to practice one Hour and half each time, and when acquainted with military Manœuvres to be exercised once a Week, not less than two Hours.

3^d—On the first Sunday in every Month, the whole Corps (except those Members not Inhabitants of Beaminster) are to meet at such place as shall be named by the Captain for the purpose, at a convenient Hour before Morning Service, dressed in full Uniform in a clean and handsome manner, for the purpose of being drawn up, and marching in Order to Church, under the Forfeiture of one Shilling for each Person who shall be absent, unless such absence shall be occasioned by Sickness to be certified by a medical person, or by a necessary Attendance on Business at the Distance of at least six Miles from Home, to be certified by some Person of Character.

N.B. Dissenters are only required to be present at the roll call.

4th—On the Days of Exercise to be appointed by the commanding Officer the Forfeiture for Non-attendance at the Hour of roll call to be threepence, and if absent the whole time Sixpence, no Exemption is to be allowed but in Cases of Sickness, to be certified as in the preceding Article, or in case of absence on necessary Business at the Distance of six Miles from Home, to be certified as in the preceding Article; and then to forfeit threepence only, but it shall be in the Power of the commanding Officer to dispense with the regular Attendance of any Member employed in Agriculture, during the Harvest Months.

BEAMINSTER LOYAL TOWN VOLUNTEERS.—MUSTER ROLL.

[illegible]

- 5th— Wilful Inattention, or disorderly Conduct, during the time of Exercise be punished by a Forfeiture of 2s. 6d.
- 6th— When the Uniform shall be provided, any Member of the Corps coming to the place of Exercise or to the Church in the first Sunday in the Month, improperly dressed, shall forfeit Sixpence each time.
- 7th— The Uniform not to be worn at Fairs, Markets, or on any occasion whatsoever, except the Days of Exercise and the first Sunday in the Month, unless with the express order of the Captain given to the whole Corps, under the Forfeiture of 5s.
- 8th— All Forfeitures to be applied to defray the necessary Expenses of the Corps.
- 9th— The Accounts of the Corps to be audited and settled by the commissioned and non-commissioned Officers.
- 10th— In Case any Member of the Corps shall refuse to pay his Forfeit on demand made of him by the Treasurer appointed to receive the same, such Member refusing shall be discharged from the Association with Disgrace.
- 11th— All Questions with Respect to Forfeits shall be determined by the Senior Officer present when such Forfeit is alleged to have been incurred.
- 12th— The Members of the Corps are to give Receipts for such Cloaths, Arms, Accoutrements, or Money for the purchase of the same, as they shall have received from the commanding Officer, with an Undertaking to give up the same whenever legally called on so to do, under the Penalty contained in the Act passed in the 34th Year of the Reign of his present Majesty, commonly called the Volunteer Act.
- 13th— The Oath of Allegiance to his Majesty to be taken by the whole Corps, both Officers and Privates.

This interesting document together with the muster-roll annexed has been framed and glazed. It was recently presented by John Russell Cox, Esq.—the great-grandson of Samuel Cox, Junr., Captain of the Corps—to the Beaminster Institute, and is now in the Library.

A smaller parchment muster-roll has also been preserved, which contains the names of the Captain, Ensign, Sergt.-Major, two Sergeants, three Corporals, two Fifers, a Drummer, together with sixty-one rank and file.

Unfortunately the flag carried by the Volunteers has disappeared together with the fifes and drum.*

Of the doings of the Beaminster Loyal Town Volunteers we have no records, with the exception of the following incident told by James Pittman, whose scarlet coat—with

* Recently Mr. S. R. Baskett presented to the County Museum the Regimental Flag and Drum which belonged to the Evershot Volunteers of the early part of the last century.

green facings and silver buttons inscribed B. L. T. V.—has survived the lapse of time.*

“ One night Captain Cox caused an ‘ Assembly ’ to be sounded,† which so alarmed the people that nearly all the men, and women too, gathered in the Fore-place to bid farewell to the gallant Volunteers, many of whom they feared never to see again. A special messenger had to be sent to North Field house for the Ensign (Joseph Bishop), who having been recently married had a most affecting farewell with his wife, whom the messenger had almost forcibly to part, to get the band complete. A private name Bartlett, who lived in St. Mary Well street, was at first too frightened to answer the summons. Eventually they all assembled and were thanked by the Captain for their bravery and discipline.”

Tradition says that the Volunteers marched towards Bridport but before reaching the town they were met by a messenger who informed them that a false alarm had been sounded.

The following extract from the *Sherborne Journal* of April 8th, 1799, no doubt refers to the above mentioned incident, for Napoleon was almost nightly expected to land on the Dorset coast.

“ BRIDPORT, April 5th, 1799.

Monday evening, about ten o'clock an express arrived from a neighbouring signal-house to the Commanding Officer at Bridport, stating that an enemy was actually landing in the west, but their number and situation could not be ascertained before the morning. The drums immediately beat to arms; the three Companies of Bridport Volunteers assembled with surprizing alacrity, and remained steadily under arms during the whole night, anxious to march whenever their services may be required. Two troops of Somerset Provisional Cavalry, commanded by Major Rodber, displayed great zeal on the occasion; Captain Travers's troop of Dorset Yeomanry assembled from all quarters with the greatest expedition; Captain Prater and the Sea Fencibles were at the batteries the whole of a very severe night; the neighbouring companies were also in a state of preparation. The Loyalty of each corps cannot be too much applauded, and the anxiety to meet the enemy could not be exceeded by any regular troops. About seven in the morning intelligence was received that a mistake had been made at the signal-house.”

On one occasion when the Beaminster Loyal Town Volunteers were called upon to fire a *feu de joie*, a member

* In possession of the writer.

† Probably in response to an “ express ” from Bridport.

of the corps accidentally left the ramrod in his musket,* which was afterwards found embedded in a garden.†

At a Sunday parade, shortly before the Corps was disbanded the Volunteers assembled in the Parish Church, and there received "the thanks of the King and both Houses of Parliament."

By the time of Waterloo, the necessity of maintaining the Volunteer force ceased, and the order for its disbandment was issued in 1814.

The following year a resolution was passed in the House of Commons, "That the thanks of the House be given to the officers and men of the several corps of Local Militia, and of Yeomanry and Volunteer Cavalry and Infantry, which have been formed in Great Britain and Ireland during the course of the War, and for the seasonable and efficient services they have rendered to their King and Country."

The Auxiliary Forces now lapsed into abeyance for some years.

By the death of Elizabeth Watkins—born at Beaminster Jan. 31st, 1810—passed away, it is stated, the last British eye-witness of the Battle of Waterloo. At the age of five-and-a-half years she was present with her mother on the battlefield. Her father, Daniel Gale—also a native, and buried here on Feb. 1st, 1875—was one of the foot soldiers wounded in the great fight. The child and her mother remained with the troops during their stay in France, and in after years the daughter married an excise officer named Watkins. Elizabeth Watkins died at Norwich on May 10th, 1904.

The following is a copy of an old nursery rhyme in vogue in Dorset, about the time Napoleon was held in such great dread—

THE DORSET NURSE AND "BONEY."

Baby, baby, naughty baby,
Hush, you squalling thing, I say,
Hush your squalling or it may be,
Bonaparte will pass this way.

* One of these long barrel flint-lock guns, for many years in the possession of the late Capt. T. Russell, is still preserved.

† This information was communicated to Ex-Quartermaster Sergt. John Hine by James Pittman, before mentioned.

Baby, baby, he's a giant
 Tall and black as Rouen steeple
 And he dines and sups, rely on't
 Every day on naughty people.

Baby, baby, he will hear you,
 As he passes by the house,
 And he limb from limb will tear you,
 Just as pussy tears a mouse.

* * * * *

When the invasion of England by France was again expected in 1859, the Volunteer force sprang once more into existence. Corps after corps and battalion after battalion were formed in quick succession, and the determination and pluck shewn might well have daunted the bravest foe. Defence, not defiance, was the object of the movement.

From the geographical position of Dorset it was feared that should an invasion be attempted, we should receive the first blow of the invaders; and if invasion took place our regular forces might find a valuable auxiliary in the Volunteers ready at hand to help.

At first, the raising of the units was restricted to independent Companies, mostly from towns and populous districts, each wearing its own distinctive uniform and badges. The Companies were not instructed in the ordinary drill and movements of the infantry soldier, but instruction was restricted to the necessary requirements of skirmishers and sharpshooters, special attention being given to target practice.

It was the town of Bridport that succeeded in establishing the first Rifle Corps in the county, then known—1859—as the “1st Dorset Rifle Volunteers.”

During the first three years of the Company's existence, no encampment took place, but a Review was annually held at Dorchester from 1860 to 1863. The first Camp was held in July, 1864, at West Lulworth, at which seven hundred Volunteers attended.

The writer is indebted to Ex-Quartermaster-Sergeant John Hine for the following account of the formation of the Beaminster Detachment—

“In January, 1867, my Father's death necessitated my coming from Stalbridge to Beaminster. I had been then

for seven years a private in the Stalbridge Company Dorset Rifle Volunteers, having been sworn in June 10th, 1860.

During the years 1867-8 I remained a member of the Company, and was at Milton Abbey Camp in 1867, and Swanage 1868.

Sometime in 1867 I called on Captain H. S. Edwards, then residing at Netherbury, and was strongly advised to join the Bridport Company D.R.V., and if possible get some recruits from Beaminster and Netherbury to join with me. Many young men, personal friends and old school-fellows, Messrs. Alfred V. Pine, Abraham Meech, W. J. Jefferd, Sam. Cox, Thomas Meech, Edward Toleman, Charles Hann, Joseph Keech, and others, were willing to become Volunteers, but especially wanted someone to join and accept a Commission, so that a full sub-division could be formed here. Capt. Sir M. Nepean, Acting Capt. F. W. Good, and Lieut. T. Hounsell visited Beaminster on several occasions, and on returning from camp in 1868, Squad drill was started in a field behind my residence—Hitt's House—and through the winter of that year at the Red Lion Hotel, the host—Daniel Newman, an old Dorset Militia Sergeant—helping me in drilling all who promised to join.

Capt. Good came over many times to see how we progressed, sometimes accompanied by Drill Instructor—afterwards Sergt.-Major—Watts, a native of Netherbury, and others of the 1st D.R.V. Non-Commissioned Officers.

Either at the end of 1868, or the beginning of 1869 an iron target was erected in a field of mine, Oak Close, some rifles and ammunition were sent from Bridport and shooting commenced,* matters being hurried forward, as it was decided to camp at Burton Bradstock that year, 1869.

Eventually twenty-six members residing in Beaminster, Netherbury and Mosterton (including myself, having been previously received as a member of the Bridport Company, and by Battalion order promoted a Sergeant), were inspected and passed by the Adjutant of the Regiment, and sworn in before Lieut.-Colonel Cox as presiding Magistrate, the Officers of the 1st D.R.V. and others at the White Hart Hotel.

* During those early days it was no uncommon occurrence for a recruit to be knocked down by the recoil of his rifle during class-firing at the butts. The Oak Close range was only a little more than one hundred yards, but the target was not always hit at that short distance.

Thus the Beaminster Sub-Division of the First Dorset Rifle Volunteers was officially established, and at camp we made a good muster, as every man attended.

I would like to add that Capt. Good as long as he remained in office, and his successor, Capt.—afterwards Major—W. T. Whetham, paid especial attention to the Beaminster contingent.”

EXTRACT FROM COMPANY ORDERS.

Formation of
the Beaminster
Detachment
11th June, 1869.

A squad of thirty recruits living in Beaminster having joined the Corps (two of whom have for some years been members of other corps in the Battalion) the Commanding Officer finds it necessary to appoint a due proportion of Non-Commissioned Officers, he therefore appoints from this date—

Private John Hine to be Sergeant.

Private J. W. Jefferd to be Corporal, in charge of the above squad.

Sergt. Hine in the absence of the Commanding Officer will make such arrangements as he may deem necessary with the Sergt-Instructor for the drill of his squad.

The first camp the Beaminster Volunteers ever attended—Burton Bradstock, 1869—was an important event in their history. The 1st Dorset Rifle Volunteers, which included the Beaminster sub-division numbered 110, comprising a Captain, Lieutenant, Ensign, Sergeant-Instructor, Bugler, seven Sergeants, and ninety-eight rank and file.

The town of Bridport gave the Volunteers an enthusiastic reception; the day was a general holiday, arches spanned the streets, flags and garlands were displayed in great profusion, and nearly every house was decorated for the occasion. About 600 Volunteers, with bands playing, marched through the town, and were provided with refreshments in “Magdalen Mead” by the reception committee before proceeding to their rendezvous.

The camp, of about 150 tents, commenced on Monday, July 26th, and broke up the following Friday. The first day there were 600 men under canvas, second day 662, third day 690, fourth day 750. On Thursday, the 29th, a Review took place before Colonel Bruce, H.M. Inspector of Army Reserve. The manœuvres during the week were watched with considerable interest by a large concourse of people who crowded the hills around the village of Burton.



BEAMINSTER VOLUNTEERS AT BURTON BRADSTOCK CAMP, 1869.

Standing left to right:—*Flag*, TOM GIBBS. *Privates* A. V. PINE, C. HANN, W. BUGLER, E. TOLEMAN, *Serjt.* J. HINE, *Privates* T. MEECH, J. KEECH, J. LONG, S. COX, T. BUGLER, a Bridport Volunteer, W. T. BUGLER (Broadwinson), *boy*, UDALL.
 Front Row:—*Boy*, S. HANN, *Corporal* W. J. JEFFERD, *Privates* A. MEECH, *Bugler* HUGHES (Bridport), T. GUY, W. BEAMENT.

Plenty of amusements were also provided for the entertainment both of the soldiers and visitors ; all kinds of athletic sports, rifle shooting for prizes, also horse and donkey racing. About 9 o'clock each evening, the camp fire—a huge pile of faggots—was set alight, around which gathered a large assembly including Colonel Mansel and the officers of his staff. Here the time passed right merrily with capital songs and jokes.

These were early days and volunteering was then scarcely the severe business it has now become ; still the camp did good, although it was in reality little more than an enjoyable picnic. Several of the Beaminster Volunteers took with them a handy man (Tom Gibbs) as fag, to clean boots, do odd jobs, and keep their tents tidy.

On the break up of the camp, the Volunteers were entertained in Bridport at a complimentary banquet. The Chairman of the camp committee, J. M. P. Montague, Esq., presided ; he was supported by T. A. Mitchell, Esq. (M.P. for the Borough) and many others.

* * * * *

In 1872 an iron target was set up near the barn on Coombe Down hill. To obtain a range of 500 yards the Volunteers shot from a station in " Long Blackney," a field adjoining Whitcombe farm-house. During the year 1887 the range was extended to 800 yards ; this extension necessitated shooting over the foot-path to Mapperton, from a point in a field opposite the first mile stone on the Dorchester road.

On the introduction of the Lee-Metford rifle this range was pronounced unsafe, but target practice continued for a time with half-charge cartridges. It was found however that these cartridges were most unsatisfactory, and the range was finally closed in 1898.

In 1875 a Detachment was formed at Netherbury, and on August 27th of that year Messrs. J. H. Morris, H. Watts, W. F. Hile and J. Follett were enrolled as recruits.

The following extract is from the Company Orders—

1876. June 12th, No. 507, Private William F. Hile is appointed Corporal from this date. Corporal Hile will have charge of the Detachment of Volunteers living at Netherbury, and will see that they are made acquainted with all orders issued by the Officer in Command.

On account of lack of recruits, after a few years the Netherbury Detachment was disbanded.

To encourage marksmen a "Shooting Club" was established on June 28th, 1873. The terms of entry were—

Officers and Honorary Members	..	5s.
Non-Commissioned Officers	..	4s.
Privates	.. ..	3s.

Ammunition was supplied from the Squad stores and paid for at the rate of ninepence per fifteen rounds. The proceeds were devoted to the Volunteer funds.

At a shooting competition in 1876 a Netherbury recruit, Private Joseph Tolley, won a prize of Ten Pounds—much to the chagrin of many better shots—given by Thomas Hounsell of Wyke Court, Bridport.

* * * * *

On Whit-Monday, June 6th, 1881, Colonel Steward inspected the 1st D.R.V. at Melplash Court. July 9th the same year was a red letter day in the Company's history, when 139 of all ranks attended the Royal Review in the Great Park, Windsor,* the muster being the largest since the formation of the Company.

The following is an extract from Company Orders—

The conduct of the men through a somewhat trying day was most creditable. The best thanks of the Company are due to those friends who kindly subscribed funds sufficient to pay every expense.

Towards the close of the year 1880 Quartermaster-Sergt. John Hine left Beaminster and the care of the Detachment devolved upon Sergt. Charles Hann. On his retirement in November, 1881, he was succeeded by Lance-Sergt. Edwin Hann who two years later was followed by Lance-Sergt. George Larcombe. When he retired in 1885 the command passed to Sergt. Albert Hann.

The brothers Charles, Edwin and Albert Hann were enthusiastic Volunteers and each took keen interest in the Corps, Sergt. Albert Hann, the last to resign, having been in charge for eleven years. He was succeeded by Sergt.

* Review by Her Majesty Queen Victoria, of 90,000 officers and men of the Volunteer Army.

W. B. Newman who remained in charge until 1897, when Lance-Sergt. H. L. Kitson took a Commission and was placed in command of the Detachment.

* * * * *

During the South African War in 1900, Beaminster had the honour of sending for active service at the front, the largest number of Volunteers—with the exception of Dorchester—of any town in the county of Dorset.

After the "black week" of Colenso, Maggersfontein, and Stormberg, the Government agreed to accept the assistance of the Volunteers which they had previously declined. It was decided to form one Company of Volunteers from each Territorial district, to be attached to the corresponding regular Battalion then serving at the front. Each Yeomanry regiment also provided one Company of Imperial Yeomanry. In this force however civilians as well as Yeomen were eligible for enlistment, and the Imperial Yeomanry was largely composed of men who had previously had little military training. The Company of Volunteers from Dorset, which was despatched to join the Dorset Regiment at the front, was commanded by Capt. Kitson of Beaminster. When the Company assembled at the Depot Barracks at Dorchester on January 15th, 1900, it was intended that Major F. G. Wheatley of Poole should be in command, Lieuts. Kitson and Wheatley being the other officers. Shortly before they assembled however, Major Wheatley was taken ill; it was hoped that he would recover sufficiently to be able to go out with the Company, but after some weeks the doctors pronounced this to be impossible. Lieut. Kitson was therefore given the Command, with a commission as Captain (temporary rank) in the army.

The War Office was undecided for some little while whether to send the Company out, as it was not quite at full strength, having only one Volunteer Battalion from which to recruit, instead of four or five as in the case of many other Companies. However, after much delay the Company at length embarked on April 3rd, 1900, at the Albert Docks, London, on board the Transport *Devon* for Cape Town, from there they sailed for Durban, and at length joined the 2nd Battalion Dorsetshire Regiment

(the old 54th) near Ladysmith. The Company served in South Africa for just over a year, and during that time gained the high opinion of the Colonel commanding the battalion and of the Brigade Commander. Capt. Kitson was mentioned in despatches, and two members of the Company were awarded the medal for Distinguished Conduct in the field. Each member of the Company was subsequently awarded the Queen's South African Medal, with the following clasps "Laing's Nek," "Transvaal," "Orange Free State," "Cape Colony," "South Africa, 1901."

In the Beaminster Public Hall a brass tablet has been placed as a memorial of the event, inscribed—

Beaminster Volunteers
Who Served In The
South African War
1900 - 1902.

Capt. H. L. Kitson
Corpl. G. Steer
Privt. T. Gibbs
" B. Hawker
" J. H. Hayward
" G. Hill
" N. J. S. Marsh
" W. A. Poole
" J. B. Rogers
" P. E. Shiner
" G. W. Swaffield
" A. Travers
Trooper R. Leigh.

On the return of the Volunteers in June, 1901, the townspeople decorated the streets and gave the local heroes an enthusiastic reception. The shades of evening having fallen ere they arrived, a torchlight procession, together with the town band, escorted Captain Kitson and his khaki-clad men to the Fore-place, where amidst a scene of wild excitement, the Chairman of the Parish Council read the following address—

"To Captain Kitson, Corporal Steer, and Privates Gibbs, Hawker, Hayward, Hill, Marsh, Poole, Rogers, Shiner, Swaffield and Travers (members of the Beaminster Detachment of the Dorset Volunteer Service Company) and to Trooper Robert Leigh (26th Company Imperial Yeomanry).

We, the Inhabitants of the ancient Town and Parish of Beaminster

cordially greet you on your return Home after serving your Sovereign and Country for upwards of a year in South Africa.

We appreciated, in the highest degree, the loyalty and devotion you shewed when you volunteered for service at the Front, and we have felt honoured that our Town has been so well represented there.

We have watched with pride the work which you have done, and now tender to you our heartfelt thanks, trusting that you may long be spared to live amongst us in Peace, Health, and Prosperity.

Signed on behalf of the Inhabitants of the Town and Parish of Beaminster, by

FIENNES TROTMAN,

Dated 8th June, 1901."

Chairman of the Parish Council.

This address of welcome, together with the following, presented by the town of Dorchester, is now in the possession of Capt. H. L. Kitson.

BOROUGH OF DORCHESTER.

To the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the Volunteer Service Company of the Dorset Regiment on their return from active service in South Africa.

We the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Dorchester have much pleasure in welcoming Captⁿ H. L. Kitson and the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men of the above named Company on their return to Dorchester. The County Town is sensible of the privilege it possesses in receiving the Company previous to its being disbanded, and the welcome it extends is one that is accorded in the name of the County of Dorset. The Empire owes a deep debt of gratitude to this and other bodies of men who left their homes in its defence, and a sense of that debt is felt by us, who receive back those who left our midst some fourteen months ago to an extent that it would be difficult to express.

It is with pleasure recorded that the efficient way in which the Company discharged its duties, has already received the Notice of the General Officer Commanding the Brigade of which it formed part. It is a matter of extreme congratulation that no Member of the Company has lost his life, although in the Action at Almond's Nek and other occasions in Natal several Members of the Company were wounded. Others through sickness were invalided, but with the exception of a few men who have taken employment in South Africa, we have the pleasure of welcoming the whole Company. The Dorset Volunteer Artillery and the 1st Volunteer Battalion Dorset Regiment who furnished the Officers and Men composing the Company are also much to be congratulated, and we hope that they will long retain the services of the men who have reflected credit upon them and on their County.

Given under our Common Seal
this Seventh day of June, One
thousand nine hundred and one.

DORCHESTER
SEAL OF THE
BOROUGH.

[Signed]

GEO. DAVIS,
Mayor.

A. G. SYMONDS,
Town Clerk.

Each member of the Volunteer Service Company also received the Freedom of the Boroughs of Dorchester and Bridport.

On July 3rd a large gathering in honour of the returned Volunteers took place in the Manor Park. At the dinner Sir Henry Peto, Bart., of Chedington Court, presided, and as a memento of the campaign each Volunteer received at the hands of Mrs. Cox a marble clock bearing the following inscription—

Presented to
by the Inhabitants of Beaminster,
on his return home after serving his country
as a member of the Volunteer Service Corps in
South Africa.
1900—1901.

When the war ended and peace was declared in June, 1902, the Beaminster Detachment of the "A" Company 1st V.B. Dorset Regt. paraded and fired a *feu de joie* in the Fore-place.

The same year in August a new rifle range was opened at Barrowfield. After the closing of the Coombe Down range in 1898 shooting took place at Bridport.

The new dual target and apparatus—Ralston's patent—is situate at the foot of Gerard's hill. The length of the range is 600 yards, and shooting from this point takes place from a brick stand about 12 feet high, which also serves as a store room. At the 500 yards' range there is another stand 4 feet in height. During the spring of 1911 a second target was added, a special grant from the War Office having been obtained for the purpose.

* * * * *

Lieut.-Colonel Mansel the first Commanding Officer of the Battalion, having previously commanded the 4th Battalion 60th Rifles, the uniform of that Corps was adopted as nearly as possible as the uniform of the Dorset Rifle Volunteers.

When the Beaminster Detachment was first established in 1869, each Volunteer paid £1 towards the cost of his outfit, which then consisted of tunic and trousers of a dark green colour with black braid facings, and bronze buttons bearing a crown, and the letters ^{D. R. V.}_{1.}. The overcoat was of a dark grey cloth. The head dress was a shako

with a fluffy black knob ; the undress caps were round forage caps.

About two years later, a black uniform, with black braid facings and horn buttons was issued, for which no charge was made. The cuffs of the tunics were piped with scarlet. Busbies with a red, green and black tuft or plume, replaced the shako, and glengarrys were the undress caps. After a few years helmets the colour of the uniform, surmounted by a spike, were issued in place of busbies.

The next uniform to be adopted,* *viz.* rifle green with scarlet facings, was almost identical to that worn by the King's Royal Rifles, the helmet was retained. This dress was continued until the formation of the Territorial Force in 1908, when the regimental uniform became that of the Dorset Regiment. The change was not however very marked, as service dress khaki had been worn since 1905, the only difference being the substitution of brass buttons for black. Up to 1894 padded tunics were worn, and the undress jackets were of loose serge. The full dress uniform should now be scarlet—the same as the line regiment—but this has not yet been issued.

From the time of the foundation of the Corps in 1859 until the year 1870, muzzle-loading Enfield rifles were used. In 1871 these were converted into breech-loading Snider rifles. During 1885 the Martini-Henry rifle was issued, and in 1897 the Lee-Metford. On January 13th, 1910, charger-loading Lee-Enfield rifles were supplied.

On March 31st, 1908, were heard the official notes of the "Last Post" of the Volunteers, for by the fiat of an Act of Parliament, the old Force passed into the region of history. The change however from the old Volunteers to the Territorial Army has been one chiefly in name and organization.

At Whitsuntide, 1909, four Officers and 124 men attended a week-end camp at Burton Bradstock, when the Bea-minster Territorials were present.

The same year on August 28th the "A" Company celebrated its Jubilee, when the Regimental Colours—presented to the Battalion by King Edward VII at Windsor Castle a few months before—were, for the first time, unfurled in Bridport.

In February, 1909, a Detachment was again formed at

* About the year 1873.

Netherbury, consisting of an Officer—Lieut. F. L. Stone,* then residing at Kingsland Lodge—and eighteen men. In 1911 the members of the Netherbury detachment numbered twenty-two.

In June, 1911, the Company spent three days under canvas at Burton Freshwater. This week-end camp was under the command of Capt. H. L. Kitson, and the Beaminster detachment was well represented.† The Volunteers were inspected by Colonel Couchman commanding the South Western Infantry Brigade.

For some years it has been customary for the Beaminster detachment "A" Company to hold an annual Church Parade. On Sunday morning, October 22nd, 1911, the local Territorials attended Divine Service at the Parish Church. The men assembled at South-gate, and headed by the Beaminster brass band marched to the church accompanied by the Beaminster Troop Boy Scouts. There were on parade Capt. H. L. Kitson in command, Lieut. Suttill, Colour-Sergt. Instructor Sprake, Colour-Sergt. Atkins, Sergt. Emery, Lance-Sergt. Cullingford, and thirty-eight rank and file.

On the occasion of the funeral of King Edward VII the members of the Beaminster and Netherbury Detachments attended the special service at the Church, the parade state on that occurrence being Capt. Kitson, Lieut. Stone, Sergt. Emery, Lance-Sergt. Poole, and fifty rank and file.

The Company issues annually a printed statement of accounts, which contains a list of the Bridport and Beaminster subscribers to the funds.

For many years past it has been customary to have an annual Prize Distribution in connection with the Company. On such occasions, when civilians are invited to attend, the Commanding Officer presents his report of the year's work. This annual gathering had always taken place at Bridport until 1897, when it was considered advisable to distribute the prizes to local winners in Beaminster. This still continues, and on each occasion the Public Hall is well filled with townspeople keenly interested in the doings of the Detachment. Prizes in money—also gifts in kind by tradesmen of the town—are awarded for Drills, Class

* Transferred to West Kent, 1911.

† A three days' Company training was also held at Whitsuntide, 1912.

Firing, and Monthly Competitions. The Challenge Cups presented at the annual meeting are—

I.—“ *Major Whetham* ” Challenge Cup.

A Shooting Competition open to every member of the Company.

II.—“ *Beaminster and Netherbury Grammar School* ” Cup.

Open to every member of the Left Half Company (Beaminster and Netherbury). Aggregate of all Musketry and Drills.

III.—“ *Ives* ” Challenge Cup.

Shooting Competition, also open to all members of the Left Half Company.

All the cups are competed for annually.

* * * * *

From the time of its formation in 1859 until 1870, the Bridport Company was known as the 1st Dorset Rifle Volunteers, Wareham Company being the 2nd, other towns following up to the 11th D.R.V., each Corps being separate.

1870-84.—“ A ” Company 1st Dorsetshire Rifle Volunteer Corps.

1884-1908.—“ A ” Company 1st Volunteer Battalion Dorset Regiment.

1908.—“ A ” Company 4th Battalion Dorset Regiment.

In 1869 the members of the Beaminster Detachment numbered	26
1870	41
1871	38
1872	31
1873	27
1874	24
1875*	26
1876*	41
1877*	50
1878*	47
1896	55
1897	47
1898	54
1899	44
1900	66†
1901	61†

The numbers for years 1879—1895 are not now obtainable.

* Including the Netherbury Detachment.

† During South African War.

In 1902 the members of the Beaminster Detachment numbered	44
1903 " " "	40
1904 " " "	39
1905 " " "	23
1906 " " "	36
1907 " " "	39
1908 " " "	35
1909 " " "	35
1910 " " "	35
1911 " " "	34
1912 " " "	32
1913 " " "	25

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE BEAMINSTER DETACHMENT.

1869. June 11th, Private John Hine promoted Sergeant.
 1879. April 4th, Sergt. John Hine promoted Quarter-
 master-Sergeant.
 1879. August 6th, Private Chas. Hann promoted Sergeant.
 Resigned November, 1881.
 1881. May 6th, Private Edwin Hann appointed Lance-
 Sergeant.
 1882. Jan. 6th, Corpl. Geo. Larcombe appointed Lance-
 Sergeant.
 1882. Jan. 6th, Corpl. John Meech appointed Lance-
 Sergeant. Resigned March, 1887.
 1884. March 21st, Private A. Hann appointed Lance-
 Sergeant.
 1885. Jan. 20th, Corpl. W. B. Newman appointed Lance-
 Sergeant.
 1886. July 5th, Lance-Sergt. A. Hann promoted Sergeant.
 Resigned 1896.
 1887. March 7th, Lance-Sergt. Edwin Hann promoted
 Sergeant.

The promotions for years 1887-1896 are not now obtainable.

1896. Lance-Sergt. W. B. Newman promoted Sergeant.
 1906. Corpl. T. Rogers appointed Lance-Sergeant.
 1907. March 26th, Corpl. C. W. Emery promoted Sergeant.
 1909. Feb. 3rd, Corpl. W. A. Poole appointed Lance-
 Sergeant.
 1911. Oct. 13th, Corpl. E. F. Bugler appointed Lance-
 Sergeant.
 1911. Oct. 13th, Corpl. F. H. Cullingford appointed Lance-
 Sergeant.

1912. April 2nd, Corpl. F. H. Cullingford promoted Sergeant.
 1913. April 3rd, Corpl. E. F. Bugler promoted Sergeant.

Sergeant W. B. Newman in 1895 received a medal "For long service in the Volunteer Force," he retired in 1906 having served for thirty-one years.

In 1897 Capt. Kitson attended a course of instruction at Chelsea Barracks, where he obtained a "Special" Certificate. In 1905 he was also awarded a "Distinguished" Diploma at the Hythe School of Musketry, passing eighth out of 110, including Militia, Volunteers and Yeomanry.

On April 7th, 1906, Mr. E. A. How, Headmaster of the Beaminster and Netherbury Grammar School took Commission as 2nd Lieutenant, he was promoted Lieutenant on May 1st, 1908, and resigned on leaving the town in 1910.

DRILL INSTRUCTORS.

Sergt.-Major Watts	Appointed May 21st, 1869.
	Died 7th June, 1883.
Sergt. W. Major	„ September 1st, 1883.
Color-Sergt. Mullins	„ March 18th, 1895.

In March, 1908, Color-Sergt. Mullins retired in consequence of a reduction in the number of Battalion Instructors under the Territorial Army scheme, and the Company remained without an Instructor until the appointment of Color-Sergt. J. Sprake, in August, 1909.

Sergt.-Instructor J. Cox	Appointed April, 1912.
Sergt.-Instructor F. Seamark	„ June, 1912.

There are two men of Beaminster who have done a noble work in connection with the Volunteer movement in this town and neighbourhood, — Ex-Quartermaster-Sergeant John Hine, who may be called the "Father of the Detachment," and Captain Henry Lane Kitson the present energetic and popular Officer in Command. It is not now possible to recount the many difficulties and discouragements that both these men had to overcome in the performance of their duties, one in the formation of the Bea-

minster Sub-Division, and the other in his successful attempts to "keep the flag flying." Time after time when the Detachment had from various causes well nigh ceased to exist, Capt. Kitson with tact and perseverance inspired new life into the Division.

Quartermaster-Sergeant J. Hine at the time of his retirement in 1893, after thirty-eight years service, wore on his uniform seven stars, each representing five years efficiency ; four chevrons (the Quartermaster-Sergeant's badge) crossed rifles for long range shooting, and an extra star granted by the War Office on passing the Sergeant's examination. He also had a long service medal presented by Queen Victoria at the Hyde Park Review in 1881.

Captain H. L. Kitson joined the 1st V.B. Beds. in 1891, and was appointed Lance-Sergeant in the "A" Company 1st Volunteer Battalion Dorset Regiment on January 1st, 1893 ; took a Commission as 2nd Lieutenant 7th April, 1897, promoted Lieutenant 30th January, 1900 ; volunteered for active service in South Africa in December, 1899, and was given a Commission as Captain (temporary rank) in the army, March 3rd, 1900.

On the resignation of Captain A. Whetham, Captain Kitson was promoted Captain in the 1st Volunteer Battalion Dorset Regiment 14th February, 1903, and took over the Command of the Company.

More than forty years have passed since the men of the Beaminster Sub-division 1st Dorset Rifle Volunteers were sworn in, and during that period many changes have taken place, but the same spirit of patriotism still prompts the youths of the town, as did their ancestors more than a century ago, when the "Loyal Town Volunteers" mustered in the Fore-place, during those dark days of the "Great Terror."

VOLUNTEER CAMPS.

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Duration.</i>	<i>Locality.</i>	<i>Battalion Commander.</i>
1864	5 days	West Lulworth	Lt.-Col. Mansel.
1865	5 "	"	"
1866	6 "	"	"
1867	5 "	Milton Abbey	"
1868	5 "	Swanage	"
1869	5 "	Burton Bradstock	"
1870	5 "	East Lulworth	"
1871	8 "	Woolmer (Autumn Manœuvres)	"

Volunteers.

301

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Duration.</i>	<i>Locality.</i>	<i>Battalion Commander.</i>
1872	14	„ Blandford and Salisbury (Autumn Manœuvres)	Lt.-Col. Mansel.
1873	6	„ Swanage	„
1874	8	„ Aldershot (Frensham)	„
1875	6	„ Burton Bradstock	„
1876	6	„ Weymouth	Lt.-Col. Steward.
1877	8	„ Aldershot (Redan Hill)	„
1878	6	„ Parkstone	„
1879	8	„ Aldershot (Church Plateau)	„
1880	6	„ Burton Bradstock	„
1881	8	„ Aldershot (Rushmore)	Colonel Steward.
1882	6	„ Parkstone	„
1883	8	„ Aldershot (Rushmore)	„
1884	6	„ Swanage	„
1885	6	„ Dorchester	„
1886	8	„ Aldershot (Rushmore Hill)	„
1887	8	„ Weymouth	„
1888	8	„ Aldershot (Scroggs Bottom)	Col. Steward and Lt.-Col. R. Williams.
1889	8	„ Burton Bradstock	Lt. Col. R. Williams.
1890	8	„ Aldershot (Rushmore Hill)	„
1891	8	„ Sherborne Park	„
1892	8	„ Aldershot (Rushmore)	Col. R. Williams, M.P.
1893	8	„ „ (Cove Hill)	„
1894	8	„ Weymouth (Lodmoor)	„
1895	8	„ Aldershot (Bourley Bottom)	„
1896	8	„ „ (Watts Common)	„
1897	8	„ Swanage	„
1898	8	„ Aldershot (Danger Hill)	„
1899	8	„ „ (Jubilee Hill)	„
1900	22	„ Salisbury (Bulford)	„
1901	8	„ Aldershot (Watts Common)	„
1902	7	„ Salisbury (East Down)	„
1903	8	„ East Lulworth	Lt.-Col. F. G. Wheatley.
1904	8	„ Lyndhurst	Col. R. Williams, M.P.
1905	8	„ Swanage	„
1906	8	„ Minehead	„
1907	8	„ West Lulworth	„
1908	15	„ Weymouth (Lodmoor)	Lt.-Col. F. G. Wheatley.
1909	15	„ Salisbury (Windmill Hill)	„
1910	15	„ „ (West Down South)	„
1911	15	„ Bovington (Wool)	„
1912	15	„ Salisbury (Parkhouse)	„
1913	15	„ Woodbury Common, Exmouth.	Lt.-Col. W. H. Baxter.

BOY SCOUTS.

In the year 1910—the Boy Scout movement, initiated by General Sir Robert Baden-Powell, proving such a successful one in all parts of the country for the training of good citizens among the boyhood of the nation—a Troop of Boy Scouts was started in Beaminster, chiefly through the exertions of the Rev. R. B. Goodden then Curate here, and soon took its place as one of the recognized beneficent institutions of the community. Beaminster, at that time, was included in the area of the already existing Bridport District Association, itself a part of the West Dorset District under the Command of District Commissioner Lord Wynford: the troop therefore came naturally under the direction of the Bridport Local Committee. It was however soon felt, both at Bridport and at Beaminster, that it would be beneficial to the movement if a new District were formed, with headquarters at Beaminster, to include the country roughly comprising the Beaminster Union. After a preliminary meeting of local supporters held in the town, a meeting took place in the Public Hall, presided over by the Earl of Ilchester, at which the Beaminster and District Local Association was duly constituted with Lord Ilchester as President, a number of gentlemen of the locality as Vice-Presidents, and Major Batley of Benville Manor, as Chairman of the Executive Committee. Under this management the Beaminster Troop has continued to do good work, whilst troops are, where possible, being formed or projected in surrounding villages.

On July 4th, 1911, His Majesty King George V evinced his appreciation of the movement by devoting one of the days set apart for the Coronation festivities, to an immense review of the force in Windsor Park. Some 35,000 Boy Scouts, including a contingent from Beaminster, under the command of General Baden-Powell were inspected by the King and warmly commended. The day was a great one in the annals of English boys in general, and Beaminster boys in particular.

The local troop now numbers thirty, under the command of a Scoutmaster and an Assistant.

Chapter XII.

INDUSTRIES.



CENTURY or more ago Beaminster was a place of business and bustle, for scattered around were many factories, which afforded employment to a considerable number of the inhabitants.

An account of the town published towards the close of the eighteenth century states that "the manufacture of woollen cloth was established here at an early date,* and is in a thriving state; there is also a considerable sail-cloth manufactory, as also of locks, and other iron, tin, and copper goods for home consumption and exportation. The convenience of water has afforded great encouragement to the tanning business and many machines in the various trades are worked by water."†

About the year 1790 the textile industry of the county was chiefly concerned with the manufacture of sail-cloth "centring in the town of Beaminster, under the direction of Messrs. Cox and Co., who employ about six hundred people in this business: and in and about the environs of Beaminster, there are upwards of 2,000 people employed by them and others This manufactory is a great support for poor people: after pressing and beating the materials (hemp and flax) in mills for that purpose, and combing and cleaning, it affords employment in the process of spinning to women and children, who are paid at the rate of twopence per pound; they can spin about four pounds a day, amounting to eightpence per daily earnings; besides which the manufacturer pays

* On the west front of the Church Tower is a figure supposed to represent a "clothier" of the town, a maker of woollen cloth, date *circa* 1503.

† Claridge—*Agriculture of Dorset*.

two or three pence per day to a child to turn the wheel ;* it is then twisted, cleaned, and softened for the weaver.

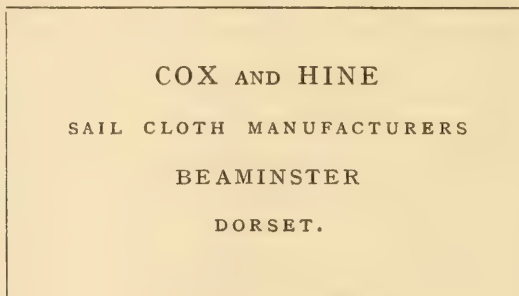
The sail-cloth is made in pieces of about forty yards each, yard wide, and worth from 15d. to 17d. per yard. Sacks for grain and flour are also made here, and those without a seam to hold each four bushels, nine gallons measure, at 37s. per dozen. The various branches of the hemp and flax manufactories are carried on in many parishes in the west of the county, where those plants are cultivated."†

Although in times past hemp was largely cultivated in the district and grew with vigour and luxuriance, to-day it is an unknown crop, and flax which also flourished in the neighbourhood is now but sparsely grown. A few acres however are annually cultivated and dressed in the parish of Stoke Abbott.

The small streams which rush out of our chalk hills once drove the water-wheels of many mills and factories. Mills in this district are mentioned in *Domesday Book*, and a few old water-mills still work, some are in ruins, others have entirely vanished.

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries the town was well equipped to take its stand as a place of industry, but its machines became old fashioned and obsolete. Perhaps the most powerful drawback to commercial enterprise was the lack of coal.

A business card in the writer's possession is an interesting link with past years.



* "Children employed as 'turners,' began to work at six, seven or eight years of age, turning the spinning-wheel from 6 a.m. in the summer, and 7 a.m. in the winter, until 8 or 9 o'clock at night."—*Victoria History of the County of Dorset*.

† Claridge—*Agriculture of Dorset*.

Beaminster was also a cloth-making town,* in which local wool, obtained from the flocks of Dorset horn sheep, was largely used. The woollen trade seems to have flourished here until the dawn of the nineteenth century when it began to decline, on the application of steam to machinery, which transferred to the north the making of so much of the noted "West of England" cloths.

To encourage the manufacture of cloth made entirely of wool, an Act of Parliament was passed 18 Charles II, which required that after March 25th, 1667, all bodies were to be buried in woollen, upon pain of forfeiture of five pounds, one moiety to go to the informer and one to the churchwardens and overseers, for the benefit of the poor of the parish. Twelve years later a more stringent Act† was passed, enacting that within eight days an affidavit‡ was to be brought to the Minister, failing which the fine was to be levied. In many parishes lists of these affidavits were kept in a separate book, quite apart from the Register.

Either from dislike to the Act, or from a wish to be singular, many families refused to comply, and entries may be seen in Registers of a "burial in linen," with a note that the fine had been paid. It was not until 1814 that the Act was repealed, although for many years it had fallen into disuse.

Very little authentic information concerning the factories of the town is now obtainable. Probably the most important was Messrs. Cox & Co's sail-cloth manufactory in the Yarn Barton. Here an old building still stands as a sad memorial of a departed industry.

The final link with an extensive trade of past years was severed about the year 1870, when the few looms that were then at work ceased for ever and the factory doors were closed.§ The present allotment garden was once an extensive green, used as a drying ground for yarn, hence its name "Yarn Barton."

* Cloth was made in Dorset and exported in the 14th and 15th centuries.

† 1680, Pd. for the Act for buryinge in woollen, 6*d.*—(Beaminster Churchwardens' Book).

‡ At the grave it was customary for the Parish Clerk to ask "Who makes the affidavit?" Upon which one of the relatives came forward and took the oath.

§ The old looms and spinning-wheels were taken from the building and broken up for fire-wood.

A building still remains in Fleet street which was once a cloth factory ; it is now partly used as a corn store.

Opposite the Manor House there was another cloth factory which at one time employed many hands ; the portion that remained became a saw-mill until an accidental fire destroyed the building a few years since.

Whatley Mill* was once a sail-cloth factory, twine and shoe-thread were also made there by Messrs. Toby and Hayward in 1865. A bell which once called the spinners to their work now hangs silently in its turret.

At Prout Bridge stood another factory ; also one at South-gate,† now in use as a flour mill. On the site of a house now known as " Hamilton Lodge " in Hogshill street at one time flourished a cloth factory. There was also an extensive textile manufactory at the rear of the premises now called " Manchester House " in the Fore-place. Stables and out-buildings—remains of an old cloth factory—were taken down in 1909, when the residence of Messrs. Daniel and Pim, surgeons, became enlarged.

From 1767—or earlier—to the year 1809 there was a Paper Mill in East street.

In addition to the factories, many cottages in the town possessed antiquated hand-loom either fixed in the living room of the house or in an out-building or shed.‡

Theodore Le Vieux§—a French refugee—was a serge-maker here in 1740. Under the name of linsey-woolsey, a kind of serge was made in Beaminster until about 1830, and sold at 14*d.* a yard.

The names of the following Beaminster manufacturers have come down to us. The dates given are when their factories were at work, though probably established at an earlier date.

- 1697. John Symes—Weaver [? sail-cloth maker].
- 1706. Arthur and John Hearn—Woolcombers and Weavers.
- 1724. Richard Hoskins—Serge Maker.
- 1725. Thomas Bryant—Flannel Weaver.
- 1729. John Gerrard—Chairmaker.
- 1730. Theodore Levieux—Serge Maker.

* Converted into a flour mill in 1868.

† Dismantled and temporarily closed in 1863.

‡ Not long ago several might have been seen working in Fleet street and East street.

§ See page 52.

- 1750 to 1831. Richard Hine—Linen Manufacturer. Factory, Hogshill street.
1773. Hine & Co.—Sail-cloth Makers.
1790. John Wheadon—Woollen-cloth Maker.
1791. Cox & Co.—Sail-cloth Makers. Factory, Fleet street.
1792. James Hearn—Worsted Maker.
1800. John Hamilton—Woollen Manufacturer. Factory, Hogshill street.
- 1801 to 1829. John, Richard and Simon Read—Woollen Manufacturers. Factory, Fleet street.
1807. Thomas Hine and Sons*—Broad-cloth Makers.
1820. Cox and Hine—Sail-cloth Manufacturers. Factory, Fleet street.
1827. Samuel and George Cox—Sail-cloth Makers. Factory, Fleet street.
1828. Thomas Frampton and Son—Sail-cloth Makers. Factory, Fore-place.
1829. David Bugler—Sail-cloth Maker. Factory, Church street.

In addition to the above named manufacturers the following persons were either makers or the representatives of local manufacturers, for they supplied the "Poor House," with cloth and other fabrics, which were probably woven at the Beaminster factories.

1775. James Daniel—Canvas, Hessing,† Holland, Thread and Flannel.
1800. James Daniel—Buckram, Sheeting, Lindsey and Dowlas.
1801. John Meadway—Canvas and Sheeting.
1802. Golding and Tucker—Rugs.
1803. Samuel Barret—Canvas and Sheeting.
1804. Jonas Wheadon—Men's Plod [Cloth].
1805. Thomas Abbott—Thread, Canvas, Dowlas, Inkle,‡ Laces, Tinkelingburgh,|| etc.
1806. William Bugler—Yarn, Lindsey, Flanning, etc.
1807. John Hamilton§—Canvas, Dowlas, Blanketing, Tickeingburgh,|| Sheeting, Lindsey and Laces.
1807. Thomas Hine and Sons§—Drab Cloth, Tickinburgh,|| Tape, Sheeting, Dowlas, Lindsey, Thread, Yarn, Handkerchiefs, Blanketing, Serge, Flanning,** Irish,†† Drugget and Buttons.
1808. Robert Rendle—List.
1831. E. P. Davy—Sheeting and Dowlas.
1831. J. Read§—Blue Cloth and Serge.
1831. Robert Conway§—Calico, Sheeting, Thread, Dowlas, Blanketing.

* "1780, Oct. ye 16. Pd. Mr. Thos. Hine for 16 yards of Mattin, 28 inches wide —16s." [Extract from Richard Symes's account book.]

† Coarse canvas.

‡ A broad tape.

§ Manufacturer.

|| Ticking, a strong cloth for bed cases.

** Flannel.

†† Coarse unbleached linen material.

Prices of materials supplied to the parish workhouse.*

1830. Calico 16*d.* a yard, Sheeting 8*d.*, Dowlas 10½*d.*, Blanketing 14½*d.*,
Thread 2*s.* 6*d.* per lb., Blue-cloth 2*s.* 5*d.* per yard.
1833. Worsted 3*s.* 2*d.* per lb.

Robson's *Directory* for 1840 states: "There are here [Beaminster] manufactories of sail-cloth, iron, tin and copper wares, and three mills for spinning linen yarn," viz.—

Charles Clay, North street. Flax Spinner.

R. Conway & Co., Church street. Twine and Shoe Thread Manufacturers.

Joseph Tite, Fleet street. Flax Spinner.

Thomas Frampton and Son, Twine, Yarn and Sail-cloth Makers. Factory, Fleet street.

Sack and Bag Makers. David Lane, Church street.

Iron Founder and Engineer. B. C. Porter, South-gate.

Tin Plate Workers and Braziers—E. P. Davy, Fleet street. John Meech. Benjamin Seymour, Fore-place.

Edge Tool Maker—William Holt, South-gate.

Millwright† and Flax Spinner—Charles Coombs, Hogshill street.

Patten Maker—William Marsh, North street.

Earthenware and Tobacco Pipe Maker—George Hallett, Hogshill street.

Tallow-candle Maker‡—Edward Tucker, Church street.

Woolstaplers—John and Richard Read, Fleet street.

1855. Edward Hunt. Flax Spinner.

During the earlier part of the last century there flourished at South-gate, the firm of Waygood and Porter, Iron Founders and Engineers. In 1840 Richard Waygood§ removed his business to London where he was joined by J. M. Day who had acted as his Foreman at Beaminster. In 1863 Waygood built a small factory known as "Waygood's Newington Iron Works" where less than twenty workmen were employed. In 1865 the firm devoted special attention to the manufacture of "Lifting Appliances." In 1901 the business was turned into a Public Limited Liability Company|| with a capital of £300,000. The Com-

* See page 194.

† Works in North street now a Milk Factory.

‡ Rush-lights and other small tallow candles were made here until 1879. Paraffin introduced into Beaminster in 1864 and then sold at 6*d.* per pint.

§ In 1794 Richard Waygood took a parish apprentice, the indentures are in the Parish chest.

|| R. Waygood & Co., Ltd., Falmouth Road, London, S.E.

pany now employ over 1000 persons in its various branches, and pay about £100,000 yearly in wages and salaries. Mr. D. W. R. Green, a great-nephew of the late Richard Waygood, is now the Secretary and a Director of the Company. The first Electric Lift erected by the Company was exhibited at the Crystal Palace in 1890.

Once the Tanning industry thrived here, and there were tan-yards in Shadrack street, Fleet street and at Southgate.

- 1790. Samuel and Henry Wilmott. Tanners.
- 1829. John Bartlett, St. Mary Well street. Tawer.
- 1829. John Gainger, South street. Tawer.

CURRIERS.

- 1790. Thomas Carter and James Daniel.
- 1836. Richard Dunn, Hogshill street.
- 1836. J. O. Bowditch, Little street.
- 1836. Seymour and Porter, Shedrich street.

In and near the town is an abundant supply of raw material for the manufacture of bricks, tiles and pottery. Probably the clays of the district were worked in very early times, for roughly made funeral urns of earthenware have been found in barrows on the downs, which were used for the ashes of the dead long before the Romans occupied Britain.

In 1767 a "Tyle Makers Company" was floated in Beaminster, but the enterprise proved a failure according to the following entry in Richard Symes's account book—

"1781, October ye 1st Pd. my share of the Tyle Company's debt, the term of 14 years, entered into by 19 Members being expired and ye Original sum of £10 each subscribed & Paid being lost in Trade—£1 : 5 : 0."

In the year 1800 the town possessed two potteries for coarse ware,* but in 1836 one of them had ceased to be.

About that date at the Pottery in Hogshill street tobacco pipes were being made, also flower pots, drain pipes, tiles, chimney pots, and bricks. Gradually the industry declined† until in 1890 it became extinct, when the kilns were removed and the old drying sheds swept away to

* Stevenson's *Dorset*.

† At the Fair in 1885 Mr. Chambers of the Pottery, created considerable interest amongst visitors by several exhibits, a potter at work with his wheel being the chief attraction.

give place to the Grammar School buildings which were erected on the site.

During the early years of the last century glove sewing ranked next to the hemp and flax industry in providing work for the women and children of the parish. This occupation was especially a home industry; the gloves made were of leather and used by hedgers to protect their hands while working.

Net making or "braiding" as it is locally termed, is the only branch of the hemp industry now carried on in Beaminster and neighbouring villages. The work—a pleasant occupation—is usually done by women in their cottage homes. Twine is sent out from the Bridport mills and braiders can earn from five to eight shillings per week.

The Beaminster broadcloth, noted for its wearing qualities, was sold in lengths at Toller Down, Wey Hill, Woodbury Hill and other fairs.

Inability to compete with the steam machinery of the north, and comparative isolation from the great seats of commerce have resulted in the almost total extinction of local industries. Beaminster has thus lost all claims to the distinction of a manufacturing town.

Proposals have from time to time been made to open up the neighbourhood by the construction of a railway. On November 21st and 23rd, 1863, enthusiastic meetings were held at Beaminster and Crewkerne to advocate the building of a railway line from the latter town to Bridport Harbour. On December 22nd the year following another meeting was held here having the same object in view. The question was again considered during the spring of 1903 when levels were taken, and the whole route mapped out for a light railway from Crewkerne to Bridport *via* Beaminster, Netherbury and Pymore, with a station at West Allington. It was stated that the cost of the undertaking including purchase of land would be about £9,000 per mile. The scheme was warmly supported by Sir Henry Peto, Bart., of Cheddington Court, but unfortunately the project like all others of the past fell through.

In 1904 the "West Surrey Central Dairy Company, Ltd." established a Powder Milk Factory here.

From the farms around the town milk is sent in churns to the factory where it is at once tested to insure purity, and also to ascertain the amount of fat present in it. The cream is then extracted from the milk by means of sepa-

rators, according to the quality of the Dried Milk Powder to be made; it is then allowed to flow over revolving cylinders kept continually heated by steam. The water of the milk is thus evaporated, leaving the solids deposited upon the cylinders in the form of a thin dry white layer, similar in appearance to rice-paper. When it leaves the cylinders, the dried milk is absolutely sterile, no germs of any description being able to survive the extreme heat to which the milk is subjected, thus making the product eminently suitable for food purposes, being largely used in the manufacture of biscuits, milk chocolate, babies' foods, and confectionery of all descriptions.

The simple product has now been placed on the market, and is known as "Cow and Gate Pure English Milk Powder," and has proved to be one of the most nutritious foods both for infants and invalids.

PRINTERS.

William Oliver printed here before 1788. Died 1825. Aged 74. Printing office in the Market Place.

Isaac Oliver, son of William Oliver, succeeded in 1825. Died at Cerne Abbas. He printed in the Market Place in 1828. In 1840 his printing machine was set up in a cottage* adjoining the Congregational Chapel, now the Chapel schoolroom, and later at a house next the Swan Inn, now a small grocer's shop. He sold his type to Edwin Coombs and, after relinquishing business, worked as a journeyman printer for him until about the year 1862.

James Oliver, a brother of Isaac Oliver. Born 1782. Died 1866. Printing office Church street. He was an auctioneer, and was printing here in 1830.

A hand-bill dated October, 1853, bears the imprint "R. Oliver,† Printer, Beaminster."

William Sherring, printed from 1823 to 1876. Died 1878. His printing office was in Church street, afterwards the residence of his son Henry James Sherring. Previously he printed in the Fore-place, North street and Prout Bridge.

* There in 1851.

† Probably a son of Isaac Oliver.

The following is a transcript of a document lately in the possession of H. J. Sherring—

“ I, Thomas Fox, Deputy Clerk of the Peace for the County of Dorset, Do hereby Certify That William Sherring the Younger of Beaminster in the County of Dorset hath delivered to me a Notice in Writing appearing to be Signed by him and attested by Wm. Sherring the elder as a Witness to his Signing the Same, that he the Said William Sherring the Younger hath a Printing Press and Types for Printing within the Town of Beaminster and which he has required to be entered pursuant to an Act passed in the Thirty-ninth Year of the Reign of His late Majesty King George the Third, intituled ‘An Act for the more Effectual Suppression of Societies established for Seditious and Treasonable purposes and for better preventing Treasonable and Seditious Practices.’

Witness my Hand the Tenth day of November One thousand eight Hundred and Twenty-three.

THOMAS FOX.”

Edwin Coombs who purchased Isaac Oliver’s type in 1834 began printing in an office at the rear of his business premises in Hogshill* street now occupied by Messrs. Reynolds, drapers. He employed his nephew Thomas Patten Coombs as his printer after Isaac Oliver had left the town. Edwin Coombs died 1886.

Thomas Patten Coombs succeeded his uncle Edwin Coombs. His printing office was in the Fore-place, the premises are now occupied by Miss F. S. Hann, stationer. T. P. Coombs printed here from 1874 to 1884 and then removed to London.

Samuel Spink printed at his business house in Hogshill street, now a butcher’s shop occupied by Benjamin Froome. S. Spink was a stationer and did printing here from 1851 to 1856; he removed to Chippenham in 1857.

Richard Drake Hallett, a clock and watch maker, also stationer, printed at his house in Hogshill street, 1883-6. Since his death in July, 1886, no printing has been done in the town until 1912 when Charles Hann started a hand press at the premises once occupied by T. P. Coombs.

* The name “Hogshill” probably indicates the halting place of droves of pigs, which in years long past were regularly driven through the county from Devon and Cornwall by pig-jobbers. An extensive trade was once carried on by these men travelling with herds of swine, who had regular halting places both for the purpose of feeding and selling the animals. Pig street at Axminster, Pig lane in another place, and Toller Porcorum all remind us of notable tarrying localities for swine.



AN OLD BEAMINSTER SHOP, HOGSHILL STREET.

Demolished 1861.

TRADESMEN'S TOKENS.

Hutchins says—"In all well regulated governments it is found as requisite that there should be money of small value for the use of the market, and the poorer sort of subjects as of the larger species for the other purposes of trade and commutation."

The coining of tokens seems to have been often performed by the issuers themselves. Those struck by private tradesmen and shop-keepers were either farthings, half-pennies or pennies, but not so many of the last as the first two.

The farthings have for their type generally on one side the tradesman's sign, consisting of merchant's marks, articles of dress, implements of trade, articles of domestic use, tavern signs, heraldic signs, animals, etc., and on the other the initial letter of his christian name and surname, and on many is added a third for that of his wife; some, instead, have the date of the year, others his trade, or the name of the place where he lived; some have again initial letters on both sides, and others have names at length. There are very few which have their value, that is, his or her farthing on them; whereas there are but few of the half-pennies or pennies without it.

The half-pence have usually, like the farthings, on one side the tradesman's sign, and on the other his or her half-penny. Some of them have instead, either the initial letters as before, or the date of the year, his trade or the name of the place, or the town, and sometimes his name at length; and some few of them have both their sides filled in with an inscription only. The legend round them is the name of the person, and that of his place of residence, sometimes his trade, also the value, when it is not in the area or field.

There are great numbers both of farthings and half-pence which have the grocers' arms on them, sometimes instead of the sign many have a sugar-loaf. Several tallow-chandlers have a man at work dipping candles on them. The tokens are generally of brass or copper.

Illustrations of the following Beaminster tokens are given in Hutchins' history of the county—

- I. Henry Brayne* = The Mercer's Arms.
Of Bemester—1657—H. B.

* One in the Institute Library presented with others by Mr. H. Symonds, a well-known numismatist.

- II. William Conway*=A Wool-Comb.
Of Bemister—1667—W. C.
- III. Lancelot Cox*=A Skull pierced by an arrow.
Of Beamister—1667—L. C.
- IV. Robert Hallett†=Mercer. A lion rampant.
In Beamister—1667—R. H.
- V. Lancelot Keate=Two hands holding some instrument.
Of Bemister—1668—L. K.

Beaminster tokens are somewhat scarce; there are, however, several specimens in the County Museum at Dorchester. These were issued and perhaps coined by the Beaminster merchants themselves without any formal licence whatever, as in very many cases such were struck independent of any authority.

GAS.

In 1832 gas was introduced into Beaminster. At first the venture was a private one, instituted by Benjamin Coombs Porter, who set up a gasometer and works in the Tan Yard, Shadrack street. A letter bearing date 13th October, 1832, says—

“We are now getting on rapidly with our Gas, the pipes are all come and the Gasometer is nearly erected, so that I suppose the town will be lighted about Christmas; we intend having three £2 burners in our shop” From this extract it appears that £2 a burner per annum was the price then charged for gas, presumably for illuminating purposes only.

In one of the Congregational Chapel Minute Books is the following entry—

“January 24th, 1833—At a Meeting of the Committee held this day it was resolved, that the Chapel‡ be immediately lighted with Gas: that the order be given to Mr. Waygood.”

At that time Richard Waygood was in business as an ironmonger in the Fore-place. He no doubt assisted

* One in the Institute Library presented with others by Mr. H. Symonds.

† In 1662 one “Richard Hallett of Beamister, victualler was granted for life a stall in the South shambles in the market place Bridport—Fine 8s. Rent 3s. 4d. a year and 1d. a week.” (Extract from the Bridport Borough Records).

‡ The first public building in the town lit by gas.

Benjamin Coombs Porter in the formation of a private company, known as the "Beaminster Gas, Coal, and Coke Company."

At first all kinds of disasters were suggested, and much prejudice existed against the "burning of smoke," as undoubtedly the original unpurified coal-gas was.

In November 1836 public gas lamps were placed about the town. Before this date, in all probability the streets were not lighted at all.

A month or two before the gas lamps were erected, a poll of the parish was taken, in order to ascertain the ratepayers' wishes as to the adoption of the *Lighting and Watching Act*.

COPY OF VOTING PAPER.

"I ——— of ——— Street (Place or House), in this Parish of Beaminster, in the County of Dorset, Vote (*For** or *Against*) the adoption of the Act of the fourth year of the Reign of His Majesty King William the Fourth, intituled, 'An Act to repeal an Act of the Eleventh Year of his late Majesty King George the Fourth, for Lighting and Watching of Parishes in England and Wales and to make other Provisions in lieu thereof,' the amount of the Money to be raised in the succeeding Year for the purposes thereof, being One Hundred and Eighty Pounds, and the number of Inspectors to be Elected being Eight.

*If you Vote *For* the adoption of the Provisions of the Act, strike out the word *Against*, If you Vote *Against* them strike out the word *For*.

This Paper is to be signed by the Rate Payer and delivered at the residence of Mr. Peter Cox, or Mr. Richard Warr, between the Hours of Eight o'clock in the Forenoon, and Four in the Afternoon, of the 9th and 10th September next.

August 31st, 1836.

Sherring, Printer Beaminster."

George Cox of North street, wrote on his voting paper "I think a Subscription is far preferable and *just*."

Richard Dunn of Hogshill street another opponent, inscribed a voting paper "I am against it because I consider it is levying a Tax on the Rate Payers who have great difficulty in raising their Poor Rates, therefore I will rest satisfied with a much grander luminary, the Moon and Stars."

According to the voting papers now in the parish chest, 42 voted *For*, and 109 *Against*, the adoption of the Act; whilst eleven voting papers were rejected as invalid.

As a result of this adverse decision of the ratepayers, a Committee was appointed on September 17th, 1836, "To

represent the whole Parish of Beaminster for the Purpose of carrying into Effect the lighting of the Town with Gas."

Peter Cox was elected Chairman and Thomas Russell appointed Secretary and Treasurer, "on behalf of the Inhabitants of Beaminster, subscribers to the Fund for the above purpose."

It was resolved "that the Subscriptions for the purpose of providing Lamps and Erecting Lamp Posts be immediately collected."

Eighteen lamps were ordered to be erected, at a prime cost of 21s. each.

It was also resolved, at a meeting held a week later "That a contract be forthwith made and executed between the Inhabitants of Beaminster and the Treasurer of the Gas Company (Robert Conway) for the Purpose of laying down the Main Iron Pipes and Main Branches for supplying 16 Lights.* and also furnishing said Lamps for 161 Nights at 9 Hours a Night for the space of One Year, with a good, sufficient, and competent quantity of Gas, in consideration of £3 a light . . ."

Six pounds a year was also paid "for providing a competent person to clean the Lamps and Light them, to keep the same in good order, and extinguish the Lamps at a seasonable Hour."

A sum of £19 was allowed the Gas Company for extending the mains.

Subscriptions for the first year, 1836-7, amounted to £67 10s. 6d. Gradually however the annual payments decreased until in 1841 lack of funds caused the town lighting to be suspended.

In the autumn of this year Richard Waygood the Gas Company's Treasurer left the town.

In September, 1839, gas was taken into the Parish Church.† In the parish chest are bills for "Gas supplied to the Church from Sept., 1841, to Apl., 1842, as per Contract £11 . 0 . 0" also "To Gas supplied to 44 Burners from Sep., 1842, to May, 1843, £11 . 0 . 0."

In 1849, B. C. Porter was paid 5s. "For Gas on fast day."

The following circular of 1844, indicates a desire on the part of the inhabitants to again light the street lamps.

* Two lamps erected later.

† See page 63.

SIR,

At the request of a Committee appointed for promoting the object of re-lighting the Town of Beaminster with Gas, and for continuing the Gas in the Church for the evening Lecture, and keeping the Fire Engines in an efficient state of repair ; I beg leave to send you the amount of a voluntary subscription assessed on you by them for your consideration, and to inform you, that the List of Assessment on the Inhabitants is deposited in the Magistrate's Room at the Red Lion Inn, for your inspection until Friday next, at 12 o'Clock at noon ; on which day an adjourned meeting will be held at the New School Room, East Street, Beaminster, at 3 o'Clock in the Afternoon for consulting on the above subject, when the favour of your attendance is requested.

S. Cox, *Chairman*.

New School Room,

East Street, Beaminster, August 30th, 1844.

Amount Assessed on you for Gas and Engines—Gas (for Town only), £2 5s. 0d. Engines, 15s. Total, £3.

To—Thos. Russell, Esq.,
Beaminster.

In 1849 the " Beaminster Gas, Coal and Coke Company " determined to discontinue the manufacture of gas at their works. This decision was arrived at in consequence of the shareholders having suffered considerable loss.*

At a public meeting of the inhabitants, called to consider the best steps to be taken, the Gas Company tendered the Works and the whole of their interest therein, " to any party or parties for the sum of One Hundred Pounds."

It was resolved that some competent individual should be employed to call on the influential residents, tradesmen and others of the town to ascertain their sentiments and their willingness to take shares in a new company.

At a subsequent meeting it was determined that a new Society to be called the " Beaminster Gas Association " should be formed, and that its capital should consist of fifty shares of the value of £3 per share. The old Company's offer of the Gas Works, etc., for £100 was accepted, and the new " Gas Association " came into being at Christmas, 1849, comprising twenty-six shareholders holding forty-six shares amounting to £138, leaving four shares unappropriated. Samuel Cox, Esq., was appointed Treasurer of the Association and Messrs. Charles Coombs, John P. Frampton and Anthony Toleman, a Committee of Management.

* In April, 1850, B. C. Porter, the treasurer, and originator of the company left Beaminster for Australia.

At Christmas, 1850, the Committee presented their first year's accounts, viz.—

<i>Receipts.</i>				<i>Payments.</i>			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Forty-six Shares ..	138	0	0	" Gas, Coal & Coke Co." ..	85	14	6
Contributions for Public				Bills	134	13	3
Lights ..	42	11	0	Wages, Carriage, etc.	39	17	0
Private Lights ..	111	7	5	Balance in hand ..	40	9	10
Coal, Tar, Coke, etc.	8	16	2				
	<hr/>				<hr/>		
	£300	14	7		£300	14	7
	<hr/>				<hr/>		

" From this apparent balance of £40 9s. 10d. the Committee deduct the value of three shares unpaid to the ' Gas, Coal & Coke Co.,' amounting to £14 5s. 9d., thus making the disposable balance to be £25 13s. 3d. With this they recommend the payment to the Shareholders of a dividend of Ten per Cent. or 6/- per share being £13 16s. 0d., and that a further 5 per cent. or £6 18s. 0d. be invested in the Savings Bank as a reserve fund to meet any accident or exigence which may unexpectedly occur, or for the enlargement of the Works if required." It was also decided to reduce the price of Gas from 12/6 to 10/- per 1000 cubic feet,* and that " the present Contract for Gas remain unaltered."

This is the first indication of meters being used for measuring the gas.

The system of charging consumers an annual rent for a given number of burners, on the supposition that they consumed a given quantity per hour, and were used daily for a certain number of hours, was found to be exceedingly vague and unsatisfactory.

In 1852 the price of gas was reduced from 10s. to 9s. 2d. per 1000 cubic feet.†

In the Annual Report for the year ending Christmas, 1853, the Committee state that they regret to find the Contributions for the Public Lights have been again further reduced in the past year from £36 11s. 6d. to £31 5s. 6d., and unless Contributions can be raised annually to £46, they recommend the adoption of a Rate on such parts of the Town as may be considered expedient under *Lord Portman's Act*, or otherwise the extinguishing the Public Lights altogether.

It appears that early in the year 1854 the *Lighting and*

* At Bridport, in 1833, fifteen shillings was the price charged per thousand cubic feet.

† Raised to 10s. in 1859.

Watching Act was adopted, and a rate levied for the purpose of lighting the streets by gas.

By a wonderful stretch of parochial wisdom and penny-wise economy, the "Watching and Lighting" were long performed at the same time.

The early watchman carried a fire pot, called a cresset, on the top of a long pole, and thus marched on giving light as he bawled the hour, and, incidentally, notification of his approach to all evil-doers, who had thus timely warning to escape.

In 1854 the public lighting of the town was contracted for by the Committee, the sum being £75 a year, and nine additional lamps were ordered to be erected. This necessitated an outlay of about £80, and it was decided to raise the necessary money by issuing twenty-five new shares of £3 each, "the shareholders having the priority: should the whole number not be subscribed for by them, then the remainder to be offered to the Public generally."

Only sixteen shares appear to have been subscribed for, but the Minute book 1854-68 is missing.

The "Gas Association" shares, 1861-8, were issued at £5 each.* In the year 1860 the Gas Works were transferred from the Tan Yard to the premises now occupied at Clampits. The site chosen was a disused sand pit from which "fox mould" had been taken for the purpose of rebuilding the houses of the town after the last great fire in 1781.

The old gasometer was bodily removed to the new site, but it proved unfit for further service and was broken up. A new gasholder was therefore erected, which is still in use, on one of its guide columns is the name John Smith, Chard, 1860.

In 1869 as the consumption of gas had increased—*viz.* public lights, £90; private lights, £245 10s. od.—the small gasholder became unequal to the demands made upon it, and a second and larger holder† was set up by Messrs. Edward Cockey and Sons, of Frome. A Purifier, Meter, and Limehouse were also erected, and the gas works extended under the direction of that firm.

The share capital of the then company—"Beaminster

* These were paid off in 1868 and new shares issued at £3 apiece in the new company styled the "Beaminster Gas Company Limited."

† The two holders when full contain about 10,000 cubic feet of gas.

Gas Company Limited"—which was registered in 1868, comprised 313 shares of £3 each, *viz.* £939.

In 1876 the number of shares was increased to 413 at £3 each, *viz.* £1,239 as it is to-day,* and the price of gas reduced from 8s. 9d. to 7s. 6d. per 1000 cubic feet.

Until recent times the lamp-lighter carried a ladder by which he ascended to light the gas of public lamps, by means of a small hand-lantern; the next step was the use of lucifer or brimstone matches. In 1871 lever taps were affixed to the street lamps, "for pole lighting," and the ladder was superseded by a long stick equipped with a well-shielded oil lamp at the top.

In 1878 the price charged for gas was further reduced to 5s.

In 1886 the Retort-house was re-arranged, when nine new retorts were put in;† two new Purifiers and a Scrubber were also erected.

During the year 1896 the picturesque old thatched cottage at the gas works was demolished, and on its site the present Manager's house erected.

According to the Gas Company's statement of accounts for the year ending 30th June, 1913, the receipts for private lights and meter rents amounted to £599 12s. 10d., and for public lights £103. The directors recommended the declaration of a dividend of $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and the carrying forward of the balance of £733 19s. 1d.; in addition to which there was a Reserve fund of £150.

The present price of gas is 4s. 7d. per 1000 cubic feet, and the streets of the town are now lit by thirty-seven lamps from September 1st to May 12th.

Managers of the Gas Works.

John Flood, 1855-68. Alfred Bunn,‡ 1868-72. W. B. Newman (Senr.), 1872-1910. W. B. Newman, son of last named, is the present Manager. His grandfather Thomas Newman, made the street lamps and brackets, fitted the burners, and laid the service pipes.

* January, 1914.

† There are now ten retorts.

‡ Mr. Bunn was appointed on March 11th at a salary of £1 a week, with cottage, garden, gas and coal free of expense. He was required to collect sums due for private lights and to take charge of meters.

POSTAL SERVICE.

It is recorded in the *Universal British Directory*, dated 1792, that "At this place (Beaminster) is a regular daily post from Bridport, which is managed by a post-master, chosen by the principal inhabitants."

Pigot's *Directory* of 1829 states "Post Office, Hogshill Street, Charles Frampton, Post Master. Letters from London, &c., arrive from Bridport every morning at nine, and are dispatched every evening at five. Letters from Crewkerne arrive every evening at five, and are dispatched every morning at nine: also a horse post arrives every day at twelve and departs every afternoon at two."

At this date the charge for letters, *if single*, from any post-office in England to any place not exceeding fifteen measured miles from such office, 4d.

Above	15	and not exceeding	20 miles	5d.
"	20	"	30 "	6d.
"	30	"	50 "	7d.
"	50	"	80 "	8d.
"	80	"	120 "	9d.
"	120	"	170 "	10d.
"	170	"	230 "	11d.
"	230	"	300 "	1/-

For every 100 miles more or every part thereof, 1d.

"All Double, Treble, and other Letters and Packets whatever (except by the Two-Penny-Post) pay in proportion to the respective Rates of Single Letters; but no Letter or Packet, to and from places within the Kingdom of Great Britain, together with the contents thereof, shall be charged more than a Treble Letter, unless the same shall weigh an Ounce, when it is to be rated as Four Single Letters, and so in proportion for every Quarter of an Ounce above that weight reckoning each Quarter as a Single Letter."

In 1840, letters arrived from London at 10 a.m. and were dispatched at 3.15 p.m. Charles Frampton, postmaster.

The following information is extracted from Kelly's *Directory*, 1855.* "Mrs. Frances Frampton, postmistress. Mail arrives from Bridport at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 7, delivered at 9. Box closes at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 4 p.m. for Taunton, & $\frac{1}{4}$ before 6 p.m. for London. Money orders are granted & paid at this office."

1857. George Stocker. Postmaster.

* Betty and Jonathan Keech were the town letter carriers.

In 1859 Mrs. Elizabeth Kiddle was postmistress, the hours of arrival and dispatch of mails had not changed.

1860. Jeremiah Peter Stembridge. Postmaster.

1895. Mrs. Sophia Stembridge. Postmistress.

1905. Mrs. Jane Stembridge. Postmistress.

Until the year 1871 when a wire was brought to Beaminster, the nearest Telegraph offices—then owned by the Railway Companies—were at Bridport and Crewkerne. On each telegram the sum of one shilling per mile was charged as portorage per mounted messenger.

In 1905 the Telephone was installed at the Post Office which replaced the single needle instrument then in use.

On November 5th, 1910, a Motor Mail service was established between the towns of Bridport and Ilminster *via* Beaminster.

The motor van, carrying letters and parcels, was timed to depart from Bridport at 7.5 p.m., Beaminster 7.40, Ilminster, arrive 9.25. On the return journey the van reaches Beaminster at 5 a.m.

Another recent postal facility—March, 1911—was the fixing of letter-boxes at the following places—Clay Lane, Fleet street, and East street.

Chapter XIII.

THE PARISH CHEST.



ANYONE accustomed to searching parish chests knows full well the miscellaneous collection of books and papers these old boxes contain.

The oldest volume now in the Beaminster chest is an Overseer's Day-book, dated 1630. All documents prior to this date have vanished, either "lost," *i.e.* thoughtlessly destroyed, or may have been burnt in one of the seventeenth century fires. Of the books and papers that remain many are well written, although now gradually fading and falling to decay.

It may be that some day an enthusiast will transcribe the books which throw such a vivid side-light on our local history.

Many quaint and interesting entries appear in the Churchwardens' books for work, and other expenses connected with the Church.

1647. For 14 Quarts of Wyne for 2 Sacraments, 18s. 8*d.* & for bread, 1s. 6*d.*
1651. For 4 Quarts & a Pint of Wyne for the Sacram^t June 15th, 6s. 9*d.*
1668. Paid for 3 quarts sacke at all halen tide, 6s.
1673. pd. for wine for palm sunday and east^r Day for y^e Communion beinge 5 quarts, 10s.
1675. Pay^d for wine for y^e communion at Christmas, 14s. 6*d.* (1/- a pint).
1680. 17 quarts of wine for the sca^r.
1681. pd. the widdow Hoskins (of the Lion) for 22 bottles of wine (qts.) for the sacrament, £2 4s. 0*d.*.
1707. p^d for to quart tent & caridg from Exon for the sacram^t, 6s.

* * * * *

1651. Pay^d for 6 yards & $\frac{1}{2}$ of Holland to make a table cloath & table napken, 17s. 6*d.*
1651. Pay^d for the makeing of it, 1s. 2*d.*
1651. Pay^d the Bedman for carying out the Rubbish, 6*d.*

1654. For a Mat in Mr. Crabb's Seate, 4*d*.
 1662. For pentecost money, 3*s* 3*d*.
 1663. Paid for pitchinge of 85 yardes of Causwaie at 2*d*. a yarde, 17*s*. 8*d*.
 1666. Paid y^e Gaile money for lady day quarrer, 13*s*.
 1666. Paid Will Hill for a new spard for y^e bedman use, 2*s*. 4*d*.
 1682. Payed Richard Hide for one weeke's work, 4*s*. 6*d*.
 1683. Payed William Minson for three and Twenty hundred of Tile Stones from Baunton Quarr, £2 17*s*. 0*d*.
 1692. paid Tho. Wilkins for 400 of Larts, 4*s*. 8*d*.
 1713. for y^e Battlements for y^e Church & caride, £5 18*s*. 0*d*.

There are many charges for thanksgiving prayers, fasts, proclamations and prayer-books.

1665. Pay^d ould Gover for carien of the Church Bybell to Dorster & brenge it back againe, 1*s*.
 1665. For bynding the church bybell, 15*s*.
 1667. For a new Coman prayer Booke & car., 12*s*.
 1672. Laid out for a booke to be read the fast day, 8*d*.
 1680. p^d for the booke for the fast the 22nd of Desember, 1*s*.
 1683. P^d Daggle for his Mag^{sti} declaration and thans-given Boock, 2*s*.
 1685. paid Will Lacke for y^e lords prayer, 15*s*.
 1687. paid the pereter Dagell for the Kings proclaymation for keeping a day of thanks given for the queens being with child, with a book of prayers set forth for that purpos the 25th day of January, 2*s*. 6*d*.
 1688. p^d y^e post for bringing y^e book of prayer for y^e King & quene, 3*d*.
 1688. p^d y^e post for bring y^e book of prayere for y^e thanksgiving day for y^e prince, 3*d*.
 1688. 30th June, p^d dagell for a forme of prayer for a day of thanksgiving for y^e prince of wals, 2*s*.
 1689. p^d Dagls Son for a pray^r Book for y^e Hewmilliat Day for going out of y^e fleet, 2*s*. 6*d*.
 1692. paid the parritor for a prayer book and a proclimaton, 2*s*. 6*d*.
 1693. p^d Mr. Dagell for a prayer book for y^e fleet, 1*s*.
 1693. p^d for a Prayer book & Proclamation for y^e Thanksgiving day, 2*s*.
 1767. Nov. 28. To y^e Perreter for Thanks giving prayer for y^e Safe Delivery of y^e queen, 1*s*.
 1787. June 24th. Paid the Apparitor for the King's Proclamation ag^t Vice & Immorality, 1*s*. 6*d*.

Shrouds were supplied to poor people at the expense of the parish—coffins were not then used.

1666. Paid Richard Crouter & his Son for bringen y^e Beare to beury y^e stranger that dyed at Meerhay, 6*d*.
 Paid John Mills, John Whithed, Jethrow Paine & William Ellis for caring him, 1*s*. 11*d*.
 Gave y^e four cariers in bred & board, 1*s*.
 Paid for a shroud for him, 4*s*.
 Paid y^e Rengers for Rengen y^e Bell, 3*s*.
 1771. Mar. 14. Paid Mr. Hine for Shrowd for Mr. Allen, 4*s*.

Early in the nineteenth century we find coffins and palls mentioned.

1802. March. Paid for Beer for Putting Betty Cloud in her coffin, 6*d*.
 1803. Thos. Hine for two palls for the parish, £2 13*s*. 10*d*.

The cock on a church tower, used as a weather-vane, was we are told, intended to remind people of Peter's denial of Christ, such a symbol is, and has been familiar here for many years.

1662. P^d Hugh Gale for settinge upp of the weather cock, 6*d*.
 1662. Payd y^e Clarke for helpinge up of y^e weather Cock, 6*d*.

The church fire buckets* have long since disappeared.

1707. gave the workmen whom hang^d ye Lether bockets, 6*d*.
 1707. p^d Mr. Charles King 11*s*. for name and deate In the Leather buckets.

Charges for the Minister's surplice are recorded.

1686. 10 yards & halfe a quarter of Holland for the searplis at 4*s*. & 6*d*.
 per yard, £2 5*s*. 6*d*.
 For making and mending the Serplis, 6*s*. 6*d*.

From the parish books we know how some of the rate-payers' money was expended. "Vermin" cost the parish a great deal every year. Foxes, Badgers (called "grayes"), Weasels (*alias* polecats or martens), Hedgehogs, also birds of the air, *viz.* Bullfinches (named opes or wopes), and Jays appear to have been slaughtered in great numbers.

1648. Many entries for Hig Hogs Hds, 2*d*. Joys, 1*d*. Opes, 1*d*., and polecats, 2*d*. each.
 1652. To John Hoskins for Five Jaies Heads, 4*d*.
 1662. To Roger Gollupp for 6 polecats, 2 wopes, 5 jaies, 1*s*. 7*d*.
 1663. Many payments for catching vermine.
 1665. Pay^d John Mintern for vermons heds, 1*s*. 6*d*.
 1666. Paid Hallett son of Millplash for a Fox taken in our Parish, 1*s*.
 1666. Henry Hoskens & Henry Clark 5 Foxes, 5*s*.
 1677. To Thos. Simes of milplash for one fox heade taken in Crabbs Copps, 1*s*.
 1677. To Jno. Mintern for Sparrows heads, 7*d*.
 1685. p^d Rich. Moores for a Martens head & a grayes head, 2*s*.
 1690. To Joseph Hearne for 6 woops, 3*d*.

* Fire buckets of leather still hang in Puddletown church.

1692. for a gray that was caught up at Mash, 1s.
 1712. p^d for 15 hidghogs, 2s. 6d.
 1712. p^d for 71 woaps, 5s. 11d.
 1715. paid for 64 oaps, 5s. 4d.
 1716. paid for 110 woopes, 9s. 2d.
 1716. paid for 9 polecats, 3s.
 1716. paid for 33 hedgeogs, 5s. 6d.
 1716. paid for 24 joyes, 2s.
 1718. Gave 2 men of Powrton y^t cañt a fox at Marsh, 1s.

Charity money seems to have been freely distributed by the parish officials, judging by the many entries of payments to travellers with a "pass," *i.e.* a certificate giving permission to wander from place to place.

1647. Gave to a Poor Man burnt out of his dwelling, 4s.
 1647. Aprile 23rd. Pay^d to John Lock and Ralph Cox, constables, towards the Charge they weare [at] for the Sick people that weare put out of Towne, the sum of £11 4s. 10d.
 1648. P^d to 40 Irish People, 1s. 6d.
 1649. P^d unto a maimed Soldier of Ilminster goeing to Poole, 6d.
 1649. Given to a Woman of Maid Newton goeing for Ireland, 6d.
 1649. To one Irish Gentlewoman, 2s. 6d.
 1650. Given to five pore people who had Layne in the hospitall at London to be cured of the burnt limbes who were returning to ther whome, 2s. 6d.
 1651. Gave to Travellers who had a Passe from the Generall, 1s.
 1652. To a Man Who was burnt in the Fire, 1s.
 1652. To an Exiled Minister banished from Bohemia, 4s.
 1654. To a distressed Minister, 1s. 6d.
 1656. Gave a blind man & his wife that was burnt out of all, 1s.
 1656. Gave a Minster travelling towards Ireland wth a Passe, 1s. 6d.
 1656. Gave to some distressed Travellers y^t were bound for the Western Islands & were taken by the Dunkerks, 3s.
 1659. Paid for y^e carryinge away of sicke folkes, 10d.
 1660. Gave to a Souldier of Penrudocks, 6d.
 1660. Gave to two Captains for the Relief of their Fathers which were in Turkey, 10s.
 1662. Gave unto seamen which were cast a away, 10d.
 1665. Gave 2 poore seemen that had there Ship takeing away by y^e Holleners, one was the Capten & ware put a Shore in Cornäll, they haveing a Passe made at a quarter Sessions in Cornäll by 4 Justers to go to Porchmoth & loged in Towne all night, 1s.
 1665. Pay^d Will Chantelbery for bred & board that was geveing to 6 pore peopell that ware cared from Tytheng to Tytheng in a Cart, 6d.
 1665. Gave a seeman that was wounded against y^e Hollens in fite, 4d.
 1665. Gave 2 seemen that ware prest to goe against y^e Hollener with a pase, 6d.
 1666. Gave 3 semen that had there Ship taken away by y^e Hollener with a passe that lodg in town all night, 8d.

1666. Gave a poore seman that was taken by y^e Frinsh with a passe that lodg in towne all night, 4*d*.
1666. Gave a woman & 2 children y^t had a pase made by 3 Justeses to go to london with a petition to y^e King her Husban being taken by y^e Hollener & there Habitation bornd by y^e Hollener beyand Cornall, 9*d*.
1667. To a man & 3 children with a pass from London from y^e hospitall his Leggs burnt of, 1*s*.
1667. Gave 4 seemen with a passe taken presoners by the hollander returning to there whomes, 1*s*.
- Gave 3 poore semen taken by a french man of war & got ashore with a passe, 10*d*.
1667. Gave an Ancient man with a pass & 6 of his grant Children that y^e french broke in on ther Eislands & killed the most part, 2*s*. 6*d*.
1669. to Ann Phoiur, widd, & her 3 children—her husband being slayne at Chatham in the late Tumult with the Duch as did apeare by her letpass, 6*d*.
- To 3 seamen y^t weare Redeemed out of Turky as appeared by ther letpass, 6*d*.
1675. Gave two seamen y^t were taken by y^e Turks, 6*d*.
1681. paid for quarters for tow men and one wooman, 4*s*. 6*d*. for carring them to y^e next parish, 2*s*.
1684. pd. carage of a woman, 6*d*.
1693. Gave to a woman in Travell & one other woman with a Pass, 3*s*. 6*d*.
1693. Gave 2 women for going with her to y^e next Parish, 2*s*.
1693. Gave Hope Rendle for entertaining & tending her one night & for a fagott, 1*s*. 1½*d*.
1793. Gave a Sick Man to leave the Parish, 2*s*.
1793. Gave a Woman that was near her time 1*s*. to leave the parish.

Continually money used to be gathered by means of official "Briefs"—which were often much abused—and there are many entries of such collections.

1657. Gave 2 Gentlewomen w^{ch} came to Mr. Crabb with a Breife which had received Losse by Fire to the Value of £1,500—2*s*. 6*d*.
1665. Gave unto a Brife for y^e pish Church of Clun that was falling in decay in Shropshire, 1*s*. 9*d*.
1665. Gave unto a Brife for a Howse that was Bornd of Robert Himlin in barkshare at Shefford Woodland, 1*s*. 4*d*.
1666. Gave unto a Brife in East Deane in y^e County of Sussex for there loss by fier, 2*s*. 7*d*.
1666. Gave unto a order made at Quarter Sessions for peddell town for there loss by fier in this County, 3*s*. 4*d*.
1670. A Breif gathered by y^e churchwardens in y^e present yeare for ye redeeming of Christians from slavry out of Turky—S^r John Strode, 10*s*.—the whole sum is two pounds eleven shillings and eleven pence.
1689. March 20th. Then collected in Town and parish of Beamister towards y^e relief of the Irish Protestants y^e Sum of £4 9*s*. 9*d*.

Witness o^r Hands : JOHN HUMPHRY, *Minister*.

WILLIAM LACK
ROBERT CHILCOTT } *Churchwardens*.

1692. Gave towards the Redemption of Mr. Collens out of Turkey.
Minister, 2s. 6*d*.
1694. Gave to a Brief for the French Protestants, 10s.

* * * * *

The following entry appears in a Churchwarden's book, dated 21st April, 1786, in the handwriting of Thomas Rayne, the then Vicar.

"Vestry on Easter Friday. We the Parishioners and Inhabitants of the Parish now assembled . . . taking into Consideration the great Waste and profusion of this Parishes Money made of late years in the Visitation Expenses, do in order to obviate the same in Time to come order and resolve that the Visitation Dinner and Expenses shall in future be regulated in manner following, (that is to say)

Each Churchwarden to be allowed five shillings for his ordinary and Extra ordinary.

This Parish Clerk Two shillings and Six Pence each Time for his ordinary and Extra ordinary.

The Vicar & his Curate & the Dean or other Visitors and the Register to have their Expenses for themselves, Officers, and Servants paid by this Parish in proportion with the other Parishes who attend the Visitation."

1663. Paid at the visitation at netherbury, 17s. 6*d*.
1668. Laid out for expenses at the Visitation at Shirborne, 7s. 3*d*.
1676. Pd for y^e keeping y^e deanes horses, 10s. 6*d*.
1679. Laid out at the Deans visitation for expenses for man & horse,
£1 6s. 10*d*.
1812. Oct. 6th. Paid Mr. Vie (White Hart) for the Parishes Proportion of the Visitation Dinner, £10 15s. 0*d*.
1842. Mr. Geo. Alexanders Bill for 2 shares in 5 of the Dinner at the Visitation of the Dean of Salisbury, £7 6s. 9*d**
1852. Nov^r 4. The Churchwardens of Beaminster to Daniel Gale Attending to the ruler Dean and others, 2s. 6*d*.

In the parish chest there is an Agreement endorsed—"1676, Corscomb Certificate to Bemister for Walter Bess." The following is a transcript of the document—

Whereas Walter Besse of our Parish of Corscomb in y^e county of Dorsett for his better livelyhood being provided of a Master in y^e parish of Beaminster in y^e County aforesaid is desirous to abide with y^e said

* For particulars see Chapter XVI.

Master, which if he may be permitted to doe. Wee the minister, churchwardens and overseers of y^e poore of y^e parish of Corscomb afores^d whose names are hereunto subscribed, doe herby for us and our successors covenant, promise, and agree to and with the churchwardens and overseers of y^e parish of Beaminster afores^d that we the s^d minister and officers of Corscomb, shal and wil receave and take back the s^d Walter Besse into our s^d parish of Corscomb at any time or times hereafter: Here to reside & dwell as a parishioner of our s^d parish to be by us and our successors p^rvided for, according to y^e statute in that behalf made, if at any time or times hereafter the s^d Walter Besse shal happen to be chargeable to y^e officers and other overseers of Beaminster afores^d by Reason of his Residence and Abode in y^e s^d parish: Any Act, Law, statute to y^e Contrary notwithstanding.

In Witness whereof we have set our hands this thirteenth day of December, 1676.

JOHN DOBSON, *Rector.*

ROBERT WHITTLE, *Churchwarden,*

WILLIAM IRELAND, *Overseer.*

Among the papers in the chest is a bundle of parish Apprentice Indentures; one of the earliest bears the signature of James Daniel the Beaminster attorney who fought for Monmouth at the battle of Sedgemoor.

The following is a copy of the document—

This Indenture made the Twenty ffourth Day of ffebruary in the Eleaventh Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord William the Third by the Grace of God of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. Anno Dom. 1698. Witnesseth, That Richard Hoskins and Samuell Greenham, Church-Wardens of the Parish of Beamister in the County of Dorsett. And William Mills, Joseph Long, James Daniell, Vict. and John Newman, Overseers of the Poor of the said Parish, by and with the consent of two of his Majesties Justices of the Peace, for the said County, whose Names are hereunto subscribed have put and placed, and by these Presents do put and place John the Son of Hester Hoskins Wid^o a poor Child of the Said Parish, Apprentice to James Daniell Sen^r Attorney of the Said Parish of Beamister with him to dwell and serve from the Day of the Date of these Presents, until the said Apprentice shall accomplish his full Age of ffour and Twenty Yeares, according to the Statutes in that case made and provided: During all which Term, the said Apprentice his said Master faithfully shall serve in all lawful Businesses, according to his power, wit, and ability; and honestly, orderly and obediently, in all things, demean and behave himself towards his said Master, and all his, during the said term. And the said James Daniell for himself, his Executors and Administrators, doth Covenant and Grant, to and with the said Church-Wardens and Overseers, and every of them, their and every of their Executors and Administrators, and their and every of their Successors, for the time being, by these Presents, That the said James Daniell the said Apprentice in all Husbandry Affayres Shall and will educate and Bring up, Or cause to be Educated and brought up. And shall and

will during all the term aforesaid, find, provide and allow unto the said Apprentice, meet, competent and sufficient Meat, Drink and Apparel, Lodging, Washing, and all other things necessary and fit for an Apprentice. And also shall and will so provide for the said Apprentice, that he be not any way a charge to the said Parish, or Parishioners of the same; but of and from all charge, shall and will save the Parish and Parishioners harmless and indemnified during the said term. And at the end of the said term, shall and will make, provide, allow and deliver unto the said Apprentice double Apparel of all sorts, good and new (that is to say) a good new Suit for the Holy-days, and another for the Working-days. In Witness whereof, the Parties abovesaid to these present Indentures interchangeably have put their Hands and Seals the Day and Year above written.

Sealed and Delivered
in the presence of
The Marke of
Robert x Randle, Sen^r
John Rendle.

We whose Names are subscribed Justices
of the Peace of the County aforesaid do
(Joyntly) consent to
the putting forth of
the abovesaid John James Daniel
Hoskins, Apprentice,
according to the intent and meaning of
the Indenture aforesaid.

Antho. Floyer
R. S. Brodrepp.

With only three exceptions, all the apprentices (lads) named in the indentures, were to be taught "all husbandry affairs," and the girls "huswifery." Boys were apprenticed till the full age of twenty-four years, and girls to that of twenty-one.

BOOKS AND DOCUMENTS IN PARISH CHEST.

Beaminster Parish Book, 1729-1768. 1768-1790. 1790-1804. 1804-1815. 1815-1824. 1824-1834.*
Beaminster Workhouse Day Book, 1796-1804. 1796-1833. 1833-1836.
Beaminster Workhouse Stock Book, 1830-1835.
Beaminster Workhouse Wage Book, 1834 (paper cover). 1820-1836.
Beaminster Workhouse Register of Inmates, 1818-1823. Paupers, 1824-1836.
Beaminster Workhouse Contracts, 1827. 1833-4-5.
Beaminster Workhouse Fire Policy, 1811.
Register of Parish Apprentices, 1804-1818.
Register of Bastards, 1821-1834.
Rate Books (four), 1842-1845.
Lists of Paupers, 1858-9.
Lists of Paupers and Union Accounts, 1850-3.

* This book contains the following entry: "The Book which succeeds this in which the Accounts of the Parish were kept for the two years previous to the Union being Tenanted is lost."

- Pauper Examination Papers, 1750-1815-1835.
 Payments to Paupers, 1850.
 Orders for Removal of Paupers, 1692-1844.
 Jane Frampton's Emigration Accounts, 1850.
 Various papers *re* Paupers, etc., 1825-1837.
 Letters *re* Paupers, etc., 1834-5-6.
 Parish Apprentice Indentures, 1697-1818.
 Bundle of Bastardy Orders.
 Confirmation of Poor Rate Notices, 1835-7.
 Union Workhouse Statement of Accounts, 1857-8.
 Tho. Keeche's Bond for £5 "Gilbert's Money," 1720.
 Church Rate Books, 1852-3-4-5.
 Estimates, 1844.
 "Powers enabling Minister and Churchwardens to receive and give Discharges *re* Thomas Keate's and Francis Champion's Bread Charities, 1837."
 Vestry Meeting Notices, 1842-3-4-5-6-7-8.
 Vestry Meeting Notices and Minutes, 1852-3-4-7.
 Voting Papers *re* Lighting Rate, 1836.
 Voting Papers for Guardians of Poor, 1838.
 Coal Fund Accounts, 1848.
 Preacher's Book, 1844-1860.
 Organist's Subscription Book, 1839.
 Bank Book, 1856-60.
 Fire Engine Accounts (various dates).
 Plan of Galleries in the Church.
 Plan of Church, 1852.
 Beaminster Church Yard. "Authority to procure Addition." 1840.
 Faculty (copy of) Font, Holy Trinity Church, 1858.
 Overseers' Book, 1765-1822.
 Rate Book, 1856.
 Vestry Book, 1822-1842. 1852-1853.
 Bundle Various Papers and Letters.
 Evening (Sunday) Service Fund Accounts, 1842-3-4-5-6.
 Bundle of Removal Orders (Paupers).
 Parish Vouchers (Paid Bills), 1831-2-3-4-5-6.
 Churchwardens' Vouchers (Paid Bills), 1842-3-4-5-6-7-8-9. 1850-1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9. 1860-2-3-4.
 Churchwardens' Accounts and Rates, 1822-41.
 Charity Commissioners' Order *re* Thomas Keate's and Francis Champion's Bread Charities.
 Vestry Minute Book, 1842-86. 1886—.
 Small book containing a list of the Subscribers to Sunday Evening Lectures and Accounts, 1839-62.
 Small book "Measuring done in Order for a New Poors Rate to be made for the Parish," 1833, by James Oliver.

LIST OF COMMUNION PLATE AND REGISTERS IN THE CHURCH SAFE.

PLATE.

Two Chalices. Two Patens (uniform).
Two Flagons (uniform). One Alms-dish.

REGISTERS.

- 1.—Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, 1585-1684. (Transcripts indexed).
- 2.—Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, 1684-1733. (Re-bound and restored).
- 3.—Copy of No. 2 indexed.
- 4.—Baptisms, 1736-1808. Marriages, 1736-1754. Burials, 1736-1808. (re-bound).
- 5.—Baptisms and Burials, 1809-1812.
- 6.—Baptisms, 1813-1829. (re-bound).
- 7.—Baptisms, 1829-1846. (re-bound).
- 8.—Baptisms, 1846-1876.
- 9.—Baptisms, 1876-
- 10.—Baptisms (Holy Trinity Church), 1857-1893.
- 11.—Baptisms (Holy Trinity Church), 1897-
- 12.—Banns and Marriages, 1754-1761.
- 13.—Marriages, 1761-1806.
- 14.—Marriages, 1806-1812.
- 15.—Marriages, 1813-1837.
- 16.—Marriages, 1837-1865.
- 17.—Marriages, 1865- (Duplicates).
- 18.—Marriages, 1686-1812. Reprinted from Phillimore's *Dorset Parish Registers*. Vol. I.
- 19.—Marriages, 1558-1685. Reprinted from Phillimore's *Dorset Parish Registers*. Vol. III.
- 20.—Banns, 1835-1903.
- 21.—Banns, 1901-
- 22.—Burials (Parish Church), 1813-1841.
- 23.—Burials (Parish Church), 1841-1874.
- 24.—Burials (Parish Church), 1874.
- 25.—Burials (Holy Trinity Church), 1851-1886.
- 26.—Burials (Holy Trinity Church), 1886-
- 27.—Burials (Knowle Cemetery), 1865-

There is another safe belonging to the Church, kept at the Vicarage.

CONTENTS OF IRON SAFE AT THE VICARAGE.

National School Trust Deed.
Boys' Elementary School Deed.
Clerk's Register of Baptisms and Burials, 1750-1815.
Faculty, 1858. Font in Holy Trinity Church.
Faculty, 1861. Removal of N. and S. Galleries in Parish Church.
Faculty, 1861. Re-seating and Organ.
Faculty, 1908. Emily Codd Memorial brass.

Permission (temporary) to solemnize Marriages at Holy Trinity Church,
1862.

Queen Anne Bounty Mortgage (cancelled 1903).

Table of Fees and agreement (Wm. Bugler, Parish Clerk), 1879.

Estimate of loss sustained by Fire, 1684.

Sundry letters and papers.

Uncompleted copy of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials after 1736.

Beaminster Ruridecanal Parish Magazine, 1900-03, 1904-7 (bound).

Several London Gazettes relating to income of Benefice.

Overseers' Day Book,* No. 1. 1630-1674.

Churchwardens' Book. No. 1. 1646-1719.

Churchwardens' Book. No. 2. 1720-1764.

Tucker's Charity Account Book, 1707-1873.

Beaminster Girl's School Book, dated July 26th, 1830, containing a list
of scholars.


Beaminster Girl's School Account Book, 1830-52.

* Pages which contained entries for the years 1643-4-5 torn out of the book.

Chapter XIV.

MANOR HOUSES.

PARNHAM.

EAUTIFULLY situated amidst sylvan surroundings stands Parnham, truly a noble specimen of Tudor architecture.

It appears that the north end of the mansion and principal part of the eastern side were built during the reign of Henry VIII, but later the house was enlarged by Sir Robert Strode, who erected the east front very much as it stands to-day.

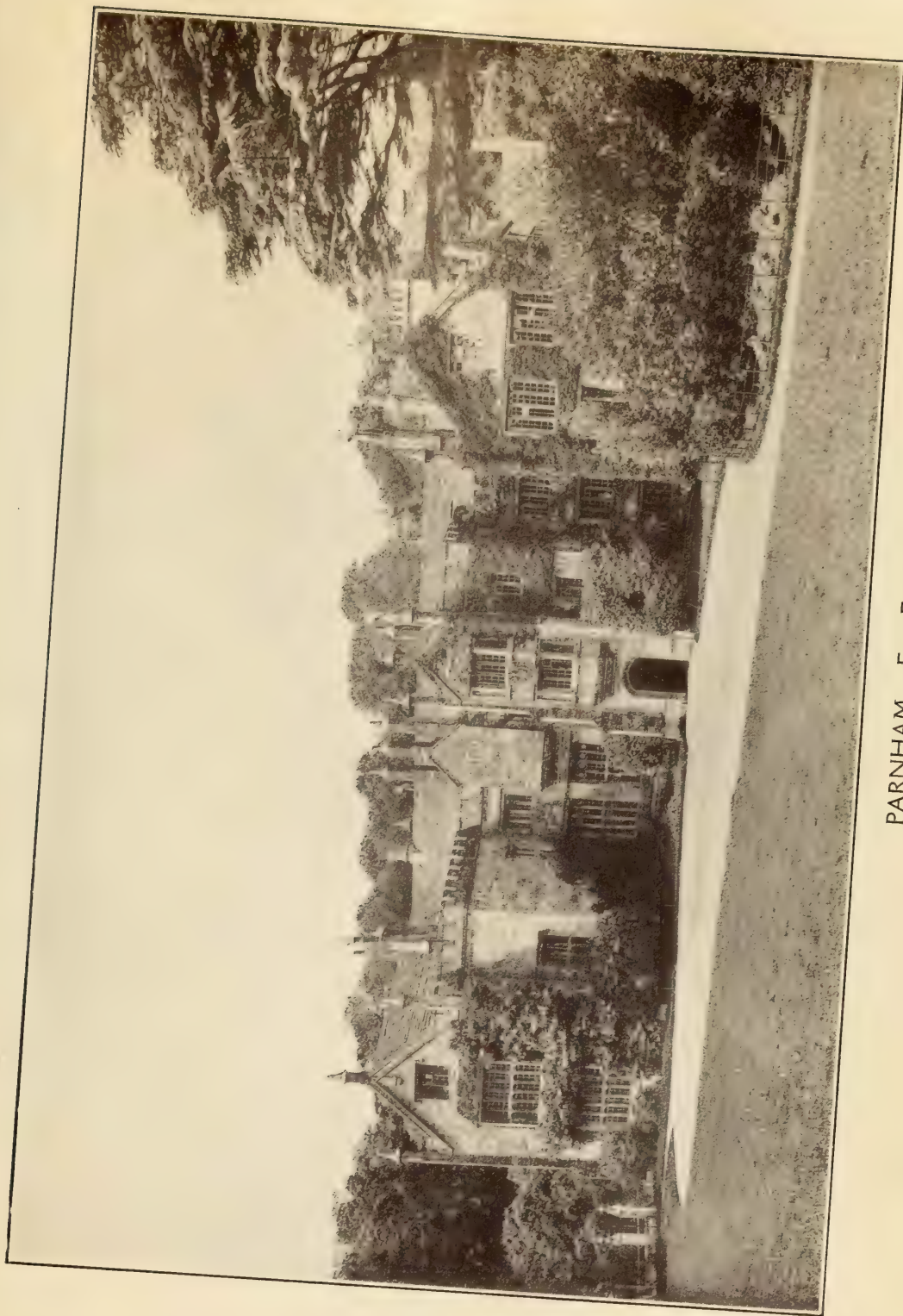
The stately pile is built of stone—now lichen-covered and grey with age—brought from Hamdon Hill, whose famous quarries also supplied material for the gabled roofs.

A pleasing feature of the eastern façade is its projecting porch, over which rises from well-moulded corbelling a charming oriel window. Between the two tiers of flat arched lights are boldly carved the Oglander arms, placed there when the property came into the possession of that family about the middle of the eighteenth century.

Sir Robert Strode no doubt considerably increased his fortune when in 1552 he wedded Elizabeth, grand-daughter of Sir John Hody, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer in the reign of Henry VIII. It was shortly after the marriage that Sir Robert set about altering and adding to the home of his ancestors, and to him we are chiefly indebted for the greater part of the east front of the mansion. Here the skilful workmen incorporated portions of an older building, hence the irregularity and delightful variety of this part of the house.

Coker, in his *Survey of Dorsetshire*, says—

“The river Brit not farre from Beminster, passeth under Parnham finely seated within a parke, the mansion house of that right antient and worshipfull familie of Strodes, which tooke their sirname from Strode, a manour not two miles distant, yet in their possession ; and



PARNHAM. East Front.
1910.

became lords of this place, by matching with the heire of Parnham, or Parram, for soe more antiently were they written. Here they flourished, in knight's degree, even from before the date of antient evidences, untill this present, and much bettered their estates by the heires of Sir John de Britton, Fitchet, Gerard, Ledred, and Hody, families of good note in these partes."

Originally the residence of the lords of the manor "the House and Demesnes of Parnham were held of the Bishop of Sarum as of his Hundred of Beminster by soccage tenure, and were the lands of S^r John de Parnham & descended to the Strodes by a Match wth the Heirs of Jerrard."*

Warinus de la Strode, the first of "that right antient and worshipfull familie" mentioned in the pedigree† is said to have lived in the time of William the Conqueror, and to have been of the family of the Dukes of Britagne. Hutchins states—"Sir Nicholas de Paulet married Alice, daughter and heir of John de Parnham, by whom he had Alice married to John Chaldecot *alias* Chickly, whose daughter and heir Elizabeth married to John Jerard, whose daughter and heir Elizabeth married Richard de Strode, which Richard by his Lady had Parnham and removed thither in the reign of Richard II from their seat at Hewstock."

An old rent-roll of Richard Strode's, dating from 1438 to 1446, has lately come into the possession of the writer.‡ The narrow pieces of parchment, stitched together, are about five inches wide, on them are written the quarterly payments made to Richard Strode of "Parham." On the back of three of the slips are rough drafts of documents relating to his property in Somerset, *viz.*—

1.—A Grant from Richard Strode and John Kayleway to John Frampton of Dorchester, and John Frampton, Junior.

2.—A Conveyance of the premises by the two Framptons to Richard Strode and Margaret his wife.

3.—A Letter of Attorney from the two Framptons to Richard Smyth.

* It appears that the family of Gerrard or Jerard have dwelt in and around Beaminster for well nigh a thousand years. The name, variously spelt, frequently occurs in our parish Registers, and one of the oldest tombstones standing in the Churchyard marks the resting place of Avice Gerrard who died in 1706.

The Gerrards owned Parnham long before it passed into the possession of the Strodes, and their coat of arms may still be seen emblazoned in a window of the great hall of the mansion. The family also held lands at Netherbury about the time of the Conquest, and during later years at Mapperton and Buckham. Gerrard's Green, Beaminster, Gerrard's Hill at Stoke Abbott and Gerrard's (now called Gerrard's) Farm in Marshwood once no doubt formed part of their possessions.

† See Hutchins' *History of Dorset*, 3rd edition.

‡ See *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*, Vol. X, p. 264.

Several branches of the family possessed lands, and settled in Sussex, Herefordshire, Devon and Somerset.

One of the Strodes once possessed and "lived in very good fashion" at Barrington Court, where he entertained the Duke of Monmouth during his tour of the West in 1680.

A Colonel William Strode of Shepton Mallett, who died in 1666, was buried at Beaminster.

William, one of the Strodes of Devon, second son of Sir William Strode of Newnham, Knt., represented the borough of Berealston in several parliaments of James I and Charles I. He was one of the five members of the House of Commons impeached of high treason by Charles I, in 1641. Two years later Mr. Strode threw in his lot with those who wished to crush the despotic power of Charles, and took the "Solemn League and Covenant" for that purpose. On September 9th, 1645, he died and was buried near the body of his colleague John Pym, in Westminster Abbey. So much was he respected that the whole of the House of Commons attended the funeral and ordered a considerable sum of money to be paid to his executors.

An annotated Almanack, 1652, of Sir William Strode's elder brother, Sir Richard Strode, Knt., throws a sidelight on the troublous times of the Civil War, when a dire tragedy was enacted at Parnham. On a page of this interesting little book, now in the possession of Mr. A. M. Broadley, particulars are recorded of a law suit that raged over the property promised to be settled on his (Sir Richard's) wife Katherine, only daughter and heiress of Sir Robert Strode, of Parnham.

In the volume Sir Richard Strode states that he "complained four times in person to the late King [Charles I] and the last time was at the Ile of weight, but the mallice of the Duke of Buckingham, with the corruption of the Lords Finch and Coventry combining, kept the said King from doing justice and the said Sir Richard Strode out of his possession in the said Lands at Parnaham. . . . The said Sir Richard complained by his bill at the beginning of this happy Parliament which after twise read and committed to all the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses of Dorset, Devon and Cornwall, the said committee sent a warrant for the said Sir Iohn [a brother of Sir Robert Strode] to bring before them the fraudulent deed and counterfeit decree complayned of by Sir Richard Strode, but he chose rather to die than to give obedience there-

unto, and his wife being a Windham* had the power of that Side in the warre time unjustly to keep the possession of the said lands at Parnaham till the end of the first war, when this Lord General, then Lieutenant-General, had totally routed the enemy in the West, and near about that day one of his souldiers, with his sword casually killed the said Sir John's wife in the same place Parnaham which she so unlawfully kept against the said Sir Richard Strode by couler of the said fraudulent deed, for her son, who about the same time also fled into another place and was taken prisoner for the Parliament for his malignancy. . ."

Hutchins says—"Sir John Strode, Knt., styled of Chantmarle compounded and paid £1,470 for assisting the King's forces Feby 10th, 1644, being then a prisoner at Taunton. He was ordered up in safe custody; but Mar. 3rd left to be disposed of by the committee of the county. His farm at Parnham, value £200 per annum was sequestered in 1645."

About the year 1628 Sir John Strode of Chantmarle, who succeeded to the family estate on the death of his elder brother Sir Robert, drew up a survey of the whole of his landed property. From his MS. the following information concerning the manor is extracted.

"The Capitall Mansion house [was] reedifyed & Enlarged wth Hambden Ashler stone by Rob^t Strode, Esq^r, my Grandfather (*tempore* Hen. 8th), the Gatehouse, the Schoole house and the wall about the Inner court and the garden were walled by John Strode, Esq^r, my Father, the wall about the base Court was sett up by S^r Robt. Strode my Brother. The 3 Orchards, the out garden & the ponds containe about 4 acres; there are also a Barne, a stall & stable with out the Court walls, likewise there is an ancient Griest Mill below the house, now suffered to lye Ruinous & decayed for the advancem^t of Beminster Customarie Mills.

The Desmesnes of the house that are Freehold Lands, are first the Croft meads so farr as to the Mill streame on the West containeing about 10 acres; the Hams & grounds lying under the new Warren & under the bouling greene, & also the hoppyard grounds, all lying West from y^e Mill streame so far as to fair Oake, contayne about 6 acres, the Little close lying under the Lane leading from y^e Bowling green to Beaminster Mills called dry close, contayne about 4 acres; of the Warren lately inclosed by S^r Rob^t Strode wth a dry stone wall & anciently called Longlands containeth about 10 acres besides the pcell of ground called Daniells knowle taken into y^e warren by S^r Rob^t Strode in Exchange for some part of Edmond Coome: next to the Warren on the south lyes a pasture ground called West leaze containeing about 20 acres, and on the East part thereof lye the two Meadows, the one called schoole house mead

* Margaret, daughter of Edmund Wyndham.

containing about 3 acres, the other called West mead or Long mead containeing about 12 acres: on the North part of y^e ponds and pond-ground lyes the Meadow sometimes called the Mead behind the Barne containeing about 8 acres, also 8 acres part of Bowling greene & likewise Quarr close are Freehold, and part of the Meadow lyeing betweene the Rowe of Ashes (growing upon a rising of ground) and the Lane leading from Beaminster to Bridport containeing about 6 acres, some have said to be part of the Customarie Lands of Beaminster prima, but how truly they have said it I will not determine, only if it be so, then is that the nearest Customarie grounds w^{ch} lye to Parnham house

Another part of the demesne freehold lands belonging to Parnham and used with it, but lying detached, was the park of deer called Parnham Park or Horn Park, paled in with cleft pales of oak, and containing about 70 acres, well wooded and stored with timber trees, and having also a good park lodge in it, but there were some acres of barren ground within the pales belonging to the Vicars Choral of Sarum Above the Park were two great pasture-grounds of demesne called Horn-hill containing about 40 acres. Adjoining Horn-hill was a farm called East Hewstock then leased for lives, where the Strodes in ancient times resided, and where the signs of walls and of a moat about the house were still to be seen. This land was holden of the bishop of Sarum as of his hundred of Beminster by services unknown. The most ancient places of residence of the Dorset branch were at Strode, Huestock and Chalmington, and occasionally at Chantmarle, till they settled at Parnham."

Many of the features recorded in Sir John Strode's MS. have vanished. Of the gate-house, school-house, fish-ponds and grist-mill not a vestige remains. The deer have long since left Horn Park—now a farm—and the "good park lodge" is demolished.

Of the mansion at Hewstock* all has disappeared save the foundations of the building and portions of the ancient moat.

On the death of Sir John Strode in 1679 Parnham passed into the possession of his son and heir William Strode, who, like his father, was a fanatical partisan, ever ready to persecute the Nonconformists of the neighbourhood.

Roberts in his *Life of the Duke of Monmouth* says—"Mr. Strode of Parnham approved himself 'a very zealous loyal person at Lyme Regis,' July 7th, 1683. He missed the preacher, but destroyed all the seats and pulpit of the meeting-house there, and then proceeded to Bridport, and did the same work of destruction in that town† . . .

* On the site of this ancient residence a house was built by G. F. Pinney, Esq., in 1911, the architect being Mr. T. L. Dale of this town. While excavating for the building the foundation of Richard Strode's residence was discovered together with stone and earthenware roof-tiles, and many fragments of mediæval pottery.

† State Paper Office. Sir L. Jenkins's *Domestic Collection*, VI, 207.

The Bishop of Bristol wrote to request that the government would send Mr. Strode 'a letter of encouragement, which would be of much use.' "

In 1705 Thomas Strode, a brother of William, succeeded, and on his death in 1718 the property passed to Anne Strode, a sister.

On the decease of Anne Strode in 1727, George Strode, son and heir of Hugh Strode (uncle of Anne Strode) obtained the family estates "by virtue of a deed of settlement made by Thomas Strode in the year 1706."

About the year 1740 further additions and considerable improvements were made at Parnham by George Strode. The rooms in the south-west wing of the house were extended and embellished, and the stables and garden wall rebuilt.

On the extinction of this family by the death of Thomas Strode, in 1764, the estate passed to the Oglanders, of Nunwell, Isle of Wight, Sir William Oglander having in 1699 married Elizabeth the daughter and sole heiress of Sir John Strode of Parnham. The marriage was solemnized in the—now dismantled—chapel at Chantmarle.*

The family of Oglander, Okelandre, or de Orglandris—who took their name from their place of residence in France—is of great antiquity in the Isle of Wight. Richard de Okelandre, the first of the family in England came over from Caen in Normandy as a Marshallist with William the Conqueror; he accompanied William Fitz Osborn in that rank on the expedition to subdue the Isle of Wight, where he afterwards settled and became Lord of Nunwell.

"It appears by an inquisition taken after the death of Henry Oglander in 1310, *temp.* Edward II, that he held the manor of Nunwell of the honour of the castle of Carisbrooke, by knight's service, and likewise to find one footman well armed to serve the King whensoever he had wars. His son Sir Henry Oglander, Knt., was with Edward III and the Black Prince in the wars in France, and was made a knight there."†

* Sir John Strode erected the Chapel of Chantmarle "where formerly was a garden of herbs." The building was consecrated by Dr. Rowland Serchfield, Bishop of Bristol, 14th Sept., 1619, "to God's service by the name of the Chappell of God & the Holy Trinitie." This little chapel replaced one more ancient situate within the house which "had confirmacon & was approved by Paulus the first Bishop of Bristol as appearith by an instrum^t to that effect dated 20th May anno Dñi 1544."

† Hutchins' *History of Dorset*.

A Sir John Oglander was made Deputy Governor of Portsmouth by William, Earl of Pembroke, in 1620, and in 1624 he was appointed Deputy Governor of the Isle of Wight.

Sir William Oglander, his son, was knighted by Charles I, and at the Restoration sat as member of Parliament for the town of Newport, and in consideration of his own loyalty and his father's sufferings for a zealous attachment to the royal cause, was created a baronet by Charles II. He was also a Deputy Governor of the Island.

On the death of Lady Louisa—widow of Sir Henry,* the seventh baronet, and the last of the Oglander family—who died childless in 1894, the estate passed by will to Vice-Admiral Robert O'Brien Fitz-Roy, K.C.B. This gentleman, however, never resided at Parnham, for whilst superintending some alterations at the mansion, he contracted a chill which terminated fatally on April 7th, 1896, at the White Hart Hotel, Beaminster. The interment took place in Holy Trinity Churchyard.

In October, the same year, the residential estate, comprising the house, park, gardens, stabling and pleasure grounds, representing an area of about 70a. 2r. 14p. was purchased for £6,500 by Vincent J. Robinson, Esq., C.I.E., the timber on the estate being included.

About the beginning of the nineteenth century Sir William Oglander made many additions and alterations to the mansion of Parnham under the direction of the architect Nash—whose services were in great demand by the nobility of his time—in a most unjustifiable manner. Many of the original features of the building on the western side were then entirely destroyed. The tower which contained the "King's Room" was partly pulled down, and the present dining-room erected, in which were inserted windows of wood, quite out of keeping with the Tudor style of architecture.

When Mr. Robinson became possessed of the property he endeavoured to restore much that had been swept away by Nash. The woodwork of the central window in the dining-room he had replaced by seventeenth century stone mullions from Wroxton Abbey, which contain painted glass of the time of Henry VIII, representing St. George and the Dragon, once in Nonsuch Palace, Surrey.

* Died 1874.

In the Great Hall—on whose walls were formerly painted the matches of the Strodes—over the chimney-piece was once a shield, bearing the arms, crest, and motto of the Strodes quartering other families; this was replaced in 1810 by the crest and coat-of-arms of the Oglanders.*

This noble room was once lighted from both sides, but the west windows Nash walled up, burying parts of the mullions in the brickwork; those on the eastern side happily remain intact. They contain in the head of each light a medallion of ancient stained glass emblazoned with the arms of the Strode family, dating from 1505 to 1703, portraying much of the heraldic history of the once owners of the property. This stately apartment—the dining hall of the Strodes—now contains costly ancient furniture and numerous works of art.

Spanning its north end is a handsomely carved early sixteenth century oak screen, and on either side of the mantelpiece are heavy suits of polished steel armour. In the middle of the room stands a massive dining-table of past days, having a thick heavy block of oak for its top, supported on turned legs fastened together with wooden dowels. Another conspicuous object here, is a beautifully sculptured Italian Pozzo or well-head, brought from the courtyard of a Venetian Palace.

The modern dining-room—built 1810—is now lined with carved oak stalls taken from the sacristy of an Italian church.

In the drawing-room is a frieze—placed there by Mr. Robinson—it was “removed” from one of the churches in Genoa, and painted by the artist Pietro del Vaga. The chimney in this room is also a magnificent specimen of Italian work, once in a palace at Venice. It is of Istrian marble, the fireplace being lined with Persian tiles from Kashan.

On the walls hang many notable portraits and pictures of historical interest. Amongst them are those of Thomas, Lord Cromwell, Vicar-General of Henry VIII, and his son Gregory, Lord Cromwell,† once owned by the Oglanders. Other portraits here are those of Cardinal Barberini, by *Domenichino*; Lord Gerard, by *Sir Peter Lely*; the Grand Duke of Tuscany, by *Justin Sustemans*; and a full length

* Removed 1912.

† Father of Katharine, the wife of Sir John Strode.

painting of Lord Hay—afterwards the Earl of Carlisle—by *Miervelt*. Other works are by *Correggio*, *Bernard Van Orley*, *Ricci*, *Boll*, *Zurbaran*, and a *Paul Potter* picture, formerly in the possession of the Duc de Pralin.

The library contains a rare Persian frieze brought from a Mosque at Meshed, and among other objects of antiquity a rose water sprinkler of the sixteenth century. In this room stone mullions have been substituted for the wooden window frames inserted by Sir William Oglander.

The oak parlour, also known as Sir Henry's smoking-room, is a most interesting apartment. Fortunately its windows have never been mutilated, they remain as when first erected in the reign of Henry VIII. The oak paneling which covers the walls has the appearance of having remained *in situ* since the room was built, it was however placed there by the present owner. This room also contains a late Gothic chimney beam of oak, an interesting relic of bygone days, which together with the hall door Nash once banished from the mansion. Fortunately however Mr. Robinson discovered these two treasures at a house near Taunton and brought them back again to Parnham.

Over the oak parlour is a chamber known as "Lady Maria's Room." It is now used as a boudoir, and contains a suite of Flemish inlaid marquetry furniture.

Probably the north-east staircase of the mansion, from the character of its panelling, was built during the reign of William and Mary.

Many of the bedrooms are still hung with tapestries of Parnham's previous possessors, and other fine pieces have been added to the rooms and passages by the present owner.

Mr. Robinson has lately published a large quarto volume* descriptive of the chests, coffers, cabinets, furniture, iron-work and curios, collected and brought to Parnham by Miss Julia Robinson and himself. This fascinating book is beautifully illustrated from photographs specially taken for the work, it contains seventy-four plates which are excellent.

The author says—

"So many fine places of about the same date as Parnham have disappeared during the last hundred and fifty years in England, that admirers of their beauty are haunted with the fear of the time coming when nothing will remain to testify to their former existence save the bare descriptions of the historian."

* *Ancient Furniture and other Works of Art.* Vincent J. Robinson, C.I.E.

Fortunately the park which surrounds the mansion is still heavily timbered with grand old trees, the growth of many centuries, which, with the river Brit, broken here and there into artificial cascades, forms an attractive feature of the estate.

On the western side of the river, is a beautiful grove, or hanging wood, facing the house, whilst immediately south is a fountain surrounded by flower beds. Here the lawns are formed into terraces, bounded on the east by a stone wall surmounted by pinnacles of Portland stone, rescued by Mr. Robinson from the débris of Christ's Hospital, London.

* * * * *

Since the foregoing was written a great transformation has taken place at Parnham.

On the death of Mr. Robinson in February, 1910, this historic Tudor Mansion—together with the estate which then comprised 157½ acres of land—was sold in London by public auction for £22,000, the purchaser being Dr. Hans Sauer the present owner.

Within a few weeks of the sale, the whole of the unique collection of antiquities, furniture and works of art contained in the residence was brought under the hammer. The sale, which continued for seven days, attracted a large assembly of connoisseurs and dealers from far and near. A finely illustrated catalogue set forth many interesting particulars of the 1900 lots, which realised a sum total of £13,560.

Parnham of to-day is approached by a newly made gravel drive. The handsome entrance gates are of hammered iron, and the pillars from which they hang are surmounted by stone eagles clasping shields, inscribed with boars' heads. A pleasing feature of the carriage-way is a stately cedar tree standing in the centre on a grassy mound, thus causing a break in the otherwise straight line of road.

Guarding the eastern side of the mansion is a spacious Forecourt, entered by a gateway whose piers support two boars carved from blocks of Portland stone; these heraldic emblems bear shields imprinted with an eagle's talon. The balustraded walls enclosing the court carry a number of miniature obelisks. At night the square is brilliantly

lighted by means of electric torches placed on four lofty stone columns.

On the south side of the house three extensive terraces have been erected, for the land here suggested such a formation of the gardens, and these are now the chief features of the grounds. They command a magnificent prospect of sylvan land, for the park around is rich in noble trees, which are not the creation of a day, but the bequest of bygone and almost forgotten owners of Parnham.

The upper terrace—gay with flowers that give colour and brightness to the old home—is paved and laid with turf. It is flanked by a Ham stone balustrade, and at the east and west angles are imposing gazebos, built entirely of stone. These circular domed alcoves, similar to those at Montacute, are striking objects of the landscape.

A double flight of stone steps descend to a second terrace, the turf of which is bi-sected and encircled by a gravel walk.

Below this terrace extensive lawns slope gently to a pretty lake with an island, and a boat-house roofed with thatch.

When time has mellowed the sharp outlines and cold tint of modern masonry, then will the massive terrace stonework better harmonize with the ancient residence.

During the remodelling of Parnham, the present owner has wisely left the exterior of the mansion practically untouched, for it bears the imprint of centuries ; but within much has been done both for the comfort and convenience of its occupants.

The transformed brick stables now constitute a north wing.* In its architecture an effort has been made to render the building symmetrical with the eastern façade of the old house, by the addition of a stone tiled gabled roof, minarets, battlements and mullioned windows, and by facing the walls with stone from the Ham Hill quarries.

A thorough overhauling of the principal rooms has left but little trace of the ornamentations introduced by Mr. Vincent Robinson.

The Great Hall, until Nash remodelled Parnham, occupied the whole width of the central portion of the house, and had a porch entrance and windows on either side. The domestic offices lay beyond the north-east end of the

* The coach-houses of past days have been converted into a commodious garage.



PARNHAM. South Front.
1913.

Hall, and the parlours were entered from the upper end of the apartment,—practically a wing on each side—shaping the house somewhat in the form of the letter H.

During recent alterations four early Tudor doorways were found hidden beneath the panelling, these once gave access to the other rooms. The removal of the ceiling also revealed the old oak roof beams in an excellent state of preservation. The two fine old western stone windows with their iron stanchions—walled up by Nash when he set the present dining-room between the wings on that side of the hall—have now been restored to their original beauty.

A most interesting find was the original Tudor entrance and exit doorways of the Minstrels' Gallery, while affixed to the stone jamb of one of these were iron hinge supports of a door. Over what was once the north-west porch a small "blind" room was discovered, this may have been a retiring chamber for the minstrels. These disclosures induced Dr. Sauer to once again set up a "Minstrels' Gallery" *in situ*,* the building of which has greatly enhanced the dignity of the ancient hall. In its construction some old oak beams from a demolished cottage at Lower Meerhay have been requisitioned.

Beneath the gallery is an Elizabethan screen—removed from a church in Surrey—which has replaced the one erected by Mr. Robinson.

The walls to a height of about eight feet are now panelled with oak wainscotting of "linen-fold" pattern. Displayed on a stone canopy over the mantelpiece† are the arms, crest and motto of the present owner.

The dining-room, now entered from the great hall by a Ham-stone doorway, is also panelled about eight feet high; from the walls plaster has been removed leaving bare the blocks of stone above. The woodwork of the smaller windows has been replaced by stone to harmonize with the large central Tudor window of this apartment.

From the drawing-room—formerly the library—there is now a new approach to the upper terrace, constructed from an old stone doorway found embedded in the walls of the hall. Over the mantelpiece is a full length portrait of Lord James Hay, dated 1628.

* The ceiling at this end of the Hall is of Elizabethan plaster.

† Once in the Oak Parlour.

The library walls—which were hung with Cordova leather by Mr. Robinson when it was the withdrawing-room—are now wainscotted with oak panelling. A Portland stone mantel, with overmantel of oak has replaced one of marble of the Renaissance period. Stone mullions here also have been added to the windows. In this, as in several other rooms, a new plaster ceiling has been placed.

The oak parlour has been enlarged by removing a partition which divided it from the muniment room, thereby increasing its dimensions to 34 x 30 feet. To give greater height to this pleasing chamber the floor has been sunk and the windows extended to a lower level. A new doorway on the north side of this apartment gives access to a Dutch garden. Oak panelling—similar in design to that in the Great Hall—brought from Sir Walter Raleigh's bedroom at West Hawsley Place, incloses the walls.

An Elizabethan staircase, worthy of the mansion, has been erected in place of the one set up by Nash; this interesting link with Tudor days is from a house near Oxford.

The Strode room, recently enlarged, is a spacious bedroom 30 x 20 feet; to its windows stone mullions have been added. In this chamber the overmantel is a unique specimen of carved woodwork, portraying the biblical story of Joseph's interview with Potiphar's wife.

In the "King's Room"—which contains the Royal Arms *temp.* Charles II set up by Mr. Robinson—is a handsome Jacobean bedstead, with the date 1626 in the inlaid canopy.

The billiard room, once Lady Maria Oglander's bed-chamber, has also been extended and panelled with oak wainscotting. The ceiling is supported by three massive hewn oak beams. Here as in some other rooms, the fire-grates are fac-similies of those at Haddon Hall.

Beneath the plaster at the north end of a corridor over the Hall, a stone doorway with its well worn step and solid oak door studded with nails, was lately discovered. This interesting relic has been allowed to remain undisturbed.

Parnham as we know it now bears but little resemblance to the homestead erected, it is said, by one John Gerard about the year 1400. Since that time much has been added, and many "restorations" have left their mark upon the stately pile.

As in the past, so in recent times, local craftsmen were

employed to carry out the alterations ; much of the work having been entrusted by Dr. Hans Sauer to Messrs. A. Hann and Sons, of Beaminster, who lately restored Mapperton, a noble manor house of about the period of Parnham.

MAPPERTON.

Nigh unto Beaminster—about two miles from the town—stands Mapperton one of the many Dorset Manor Houses of which the county is so justly proud.

The building, a gem of the domestic architecture of the Tudor and later periods, is hidden away in a wooded glen far off the beaten track.

Mapperton* we are told is a corruption of “Mapletree town,” the Anglo-Saxon being *Mapuldurtun*. In *Domesday Book* the place is styled Malperetone ; it was at that time held by one Ernulf de Hesding, and later in 1278 by William de Moion. About the year 1280 it was owned by the Bretts or Brytes, and from them passed into the possession of John Morgan of Morgan Hayes, Devon, by marriage with Maud daughter and heiress of John Brett.

It was, in later years, that a descendant built the Manor House at Mapperton. This we know from an inscription once in the hall—

“Robert Morgan, and Mary his wife, built this house, in their own lifetime, at their own charge and cost.

What they spent, that they lent ;
What they gave, that they have ;
What they left, that they lost.”

Robert Morgan’s wife was the daughter and co-heiress of John Wogan, or Ougan, of White Lackington, near Ilminster. During the reign of Queen Elizabeth their eldest son John was executed for the murder at Chard of his brother-in-law Nicholas Turberville.

It may be of interest to record a patent granted to Robert Morgan, in the following terms—

“Henry, by the Grace of God, King of England, and of Fraunce, and Lord of Ir’land : To al ma [all manner] our subjects as wele of spïall [spiritual] p.ẽminence [pre-eminence] and dignitie as of tempall [tem-

* Hutchins’ says, the court rolls of the manor are preserved from the 18th year of Edward I.

poral] authoritie these our lres [letters] hering or seing, greeting : For-asmoeche as Wee (be) credibly enformed that our welbiloved Robert Morgan, esquire, for diſse [diverse] Infirmeties which he hathe in his Hedde, cannot convenyently wout [without] his grete daungier bee disçoved [discovered] of the same : Wherupon, We in tendre Consideracion thereof, have by these pšents [presents] licensed hym to use and were his Bonnet on his hed at al tymys as wel in our p.šence [presence] as elsewhere, at his libtie [liberty]. We therfor wel and cōmande you and eſy [every] of you to pmytte [permit] and suffr hym soe to doo whout [without] any chalenge or interpeions [interruptions] to the contrary, as ye tender our pleas^r. Gevin under our signet at More-ende the 25th day of July, the thirde yře of o^r reign."

The original—endorsed "Patent for Bonnett 1424"—was once in the possession of Baruch Fox, of Beaminster.

John Banger Russell who copied the licence about the year 1790, says "According to the date 1424 this Patent must have been granted by Henry the Sixth The Indorsement is evidently erroneous as Henry 6th began his reign on the 31st Aug., 1422, so that on the 25th July, 1424, he co^d not have quite completed his 2nd yře. As the date in the Patent and the Indorsement do not agree I sho^d rather attribute the patent to Hen. 8th, as the language does not seem so old as the time of Hen. 6th There is another reason for reject^s the date of the Indorsement. The original Instrument has the Royal signature, and it is observed by Mr. Parrington that all Instruments before the time of Edw^d 4th bear date *Teste Rege* without the royal signature."

In 1618 Mapperton passed from the Morgans into the possession of Richard Brodrepp of Huntspill near Bridgewater, by marriage with Mary, daughter of Christopher Morgan.

Richard Brodrepp, a grandson, built the present coach-house and stables, and erected the piers of the Forecourt entrance gates, on which he placed noble stone eagles with outspread wings, which so much enhance the dignity of the approach.

On the death of the last of the Mapperton Brodrepps, in 1774, the estate went to a nephew—Bennet Combe, and later in 1788 by marriage, to Henry Combe Compton of Minstead, Hants, in whose family it still remains.

The mansion of to-day is a Ham stone two-story building, with dormer windows set in the stone covered roof. It bears many evidences of alterations since the time of Henry VIII when Robert Morgan built his manor house ;



MAPPERTON MANOR HOUSE.

nevertheless the blending of the work mellowed by the hand of time is most pleasing.

Hutchins says, Richard Brodrepp partly rebuilt the western front; this may have been about the middle of the seventeenth century. Since that time there has been but little change, excepting the addition of the balustrading which is attributed to a later Richard Brodrepp who died in 1774.

Over the porch is a shield of the Brodrepps, with the four sheldrakes and crest of the family. Probably the stone jambs of the doorway belonged to the original house, as on the spandrils of the arch is carved the Morgan crest "a griffin, in his mouth a corn flag of 3 leaves." Within the porch may also be seen the date 1661, and the initials "R. B."

Authorities agree that the north wing is part of the original Tudor house, but it has unfortunately lost its great bay which once lit the present drawing-room and bedroom over.

This wing retains the characteristic corner pinnacles set up by the early builders; they support the griffins of the Morgans, and the lions of the Bretts. In the west gable the mullioned window and the dormer on the south side remain untouched. Other windows, which were until quite recently walled up, have been restored.

The little church, which forms a south wing, was partly rebuilt by Richard Brodrepp, patron of the living, in 1704, at his own expense. In its windows he placed an interesting and miscellaneous collection of painted glass; some of the pieces were removed from the Manor House, others from Beaminster Church and Lower Meerhay House.*

At the south-east corner of the house are walls of early masonry, and may be portions of a building anterior to Robert Morgan's home. Under the rooms in this part of the mansion is a large vaulted chamber or cellar, built, it has been suggested, to raise the ground floor to the level of the terrace.

Although the interior of the house has been modernised it still retains much of its former beauty. The plaster ceilings are magnificent, especially those of the drawing-room and bedroom over it; they are of Italian workman-

* It appears that Mr. Brodrepp obtained painted glass elsewhere, as the following entry in his account book dated April, 1768, shews—"Expended in London—Painted glass for the Church £10 . 10 . 0."

ship, or fashioned under the influence of Italian craftsmen. In the former apartment the crest and arms of the Bretts and Morgans are set in panels of geometrical tracery. The ceiling of the bed-chamber is of moulded ribs with wooden bosses or pendants, and *fleur-de-lys* of the Morgans are repeated in the panels. Around the room runs a deep moulded frieze. The chimney-piece is also of plaster foliage, and contains the Morgan arms and motto *Loialte sa provera*. This overmantel was discovered beneath the oak panelling when the house underwent a restoration on the death of the Rev. Paulet Mildmay Compton, in 1906.

The staircase ceiling is considered to be of Jacobean date.

In the hall has been placed a massive plaster overmantel ; it bears a date, 1604, and the Paulet arms encircled by the Garter with two leopards as supporters. Below on a scroll is the motto of the family *Ames loyaulte*. A figure on either side of the ornamental frame holds a hawk with wings extended—the Paulet crest. It is to be regretted that this overmantel was recently removed from Melplash Court, as the arms, quarterings, crest, and motto are those of former owners of Melplash, *not* Mapperton.

Another relic from Melplash is in the morning-room. This is also a plaster overmantel and contains the royal arms ; at the sides are the initials I. R. [Jacobus Rex].

Behind the house on the east side are lawns and terraces. In the garden is a large stone water tank canopied by yews, the approach is down a flight of stone stairs. It is now known as “Queen Elizabeth’s Bath.”

Many owners and occupiers of the Manor have come and gone, but the home remains with its picturesque old-world gardens, which slope away into a peaceful valley, undisturbed, save by noisy rooks when they nightly return to roost in the stately elms of Mapperton.

BEAMINSTER MANOR HOUSE.

Although of little interest to antiquarians the Manor House is worthy of mention as having been the home of the old Beaminster family of Cox for many generations. Members of this ancient family have in times past played important parts in the history of the town. The name is mentioned in a transcript of the parish Register for the

year 1585 when Robert, a son of Robert Cox, was baptized.

During the troublous times of the Stuarts and for long after, the Coxes were prominent Nonconformists of Beaminster. It was at the house of Lancelot Cox—a merchant who coined tokens here in 1667—in East street that the Dissenters first held their religious services.

In 1685 Lancelot Cox joined Monmouth's army and probably fought at the battle of Sedgemoor. His name appears among those of our townsmen who were indicted before Jeffreys at the "Bloody Assize," held in Dorchester.*

About the middle of the eighteenth century Lancelot Cox's great-grandson Daniel—a sail-cloth manufacturer here, whose memory is perpetuated by a marble tablet in the parish church—purchased the residence now known as the Manor House.

On the death of Daniel Cox, in 1778, the property passed to his son and heir Samuel, who in 1790 married Ann, daughter and heiress of Richard Symes a barrister-at-law.

In 1803 Samuel Cox† made considerable additions to the house of his father under the direction of John Schofield, a London architect.

Samuel, born 1758, inherited the property on the decease of his father in 1822. At the age of twenty-six he wedded Virtue, daughter and co-heiress of John Banger Russell the Beaminster historian, and shortly after his father's death made many alterations to the Manor House. In the drawing-room he placed a handsomely carved white marble mantelpiece of Italian workmanship, the sculpture of which vividly depicts scenes connected with the siege of Troy. This apartment was further enriched by a painted canvas ceiling representing the "Feast of the Gods"‡ by Andrew Casali, an Italian artist born at Civita Vecchia, in 1720.

These treasures were purchased at Fonthill, when in 1822 William Beckford, "the richest Commoner of his day," dispersed by public auction the costly contents of his then famous Abbey.

When Princess Victoria, in 1833, passed through Bea-

* See Chapter IX.

† At the time of the "Great Terror" he was captain of the Beaminster Loyal Town Volunteers.

‡ Two panels of this masterpiece were given to the Bath Museum.

minster, Samuel Cox, then a Cornet in the Dorset Yeomanry Cavalry, had the honour of commanding the escort of Her Royal Highness from this town to Lyme Regis.

Samuel Cox, Deputy-Lieutenant and a Justice of the Peace for Dorset, was for more than quarter of a century Chairman of the Beaminster Union Board of Guardians. On his death in 1860 the family estates passed into the possession of his eldest son, Samuel Symes Cox (born at Cheddington, 4th Sept., 1817) a Lt.-Colonel in H.M.'s 56th Regiment.

In 1846 Samuel Symes Cox married Elizabeth, daughter of James Taylor, of Glasgow, who died just ten years later.

During the Crimean War, Lt.-Colonel Cox was present with his regiment at the fall of Sebastopol, September 9th, 1855.

In the following year, on the establishment of the Dorset Constabulary he was appointed Chief Constable of the County. On retiring from that office in November, 1867, he received the thanks of the Court of Quarter Sessions, and was presented with a gold watch and chain in recognition of his services. These souvenirs were unfortunately stolen at the last meeting of the "West Dorset and Beaminster Races,"* held on Beaminster Down in September, 1870.

In 1867 "the Colonel," having married Mary, youngest daughter of Thomas Feetham of Weybridge in April, 1860, came to reside at the Manor House.

Samuel Symes Cox was elected Chairman of the Board of Guardians of Beaminster Union in 1871, he also served as a County J.P. for many years. On his death in October, 1884, the property passed to his son, John Russell Cox, born at Manchester, September, 1851.

Mrs. Mary Cox continued to live at the Manor House until her death in June, 1909, when Beaminster lost its noblest friend. During her forty-two years' residence, Mrs. Cox took keen interest in everything connected with the welfare of the town, and was at all times a most generous contributor not only to the Church but to every object worthy of recognition.

On the eve of her eightieth birthday she was presented with an illuminated address expressing the good wishes and bearing the signatures of one hundred parishioners.

* Founded September 24th, 1867.

In addition to a memorial window in the parish church, ten substantial oak way-side seats, each bearing a plate *In Memoriam of M. C.*, have been placed in suitable positions around the town by her niece, Miss Tennant.


The grounds of the Manor House are of great natural beauty, its walks being shaded by many stately trees. An ornamental lake, over an acre in extent, with an island, adds considerably to the charm of the place. A finely timbered park away to the north-west contains a double avenue of grand old elms nearly a mile in length.

The lawns are separated from the gardens by a handsome Tudor gateway brought from Clifton Maybank. This interesting relic of bygone days was purchased when the mansion of the Horseys was despoiled towards the close of the eighteenth century.

In 1911 a link with the past was severed by the sale of the Manor House and its lands. The honoured name of Cox will however long be associated with Beaminster and their ancestral home.

Chapter XV.

WATCHMEN. PARISH CONSTABLES. POLICE.

URING the early part of the seventeenth century when Beaminster had one of its worst visitations of the "Black Death," the town also suffered from another plague, one of the most oppressive of those days, namely the quartering of a regiment of soldiers on the inhabitants. During their stay in the place all kinds of licentiousness and violence were carried on with impunity, so that they were pronounced *worse than an invading army*. So sensible of this were the good people of Lyme that they paid Mr. Carpenter, the Town Clerk, 3s. 6d. for his journey to Beaminster to "avoid the soldiers." This would probably be managed by an understanding with the Officers—no doubt by bribing them—not to visit Lyme Regis.

Possibly the morals of the townspeople had been corrupted by their military visitors, for we are told that at the Michaelmas Sessions held at Beaminster in 1629, the following order was issued—

"Forasmuch as information hath been given unto this courte, that there are noe stockes, pillory, nor ducking-stoole within the Mannor of Beminster, and that they ought to be made and sett up by the lord or fermour of the said mannor, and that Peter Hoskins, now fermour of the said mannor did lately cause some of his servants to take and carry away the old decayed stockes that were placed in the towne of Beminster, within the saide mannor. This courte doth order that the saide Peter Hoskins shall within tenne dayes after the date hereof make and sett up or cause to be made and sett up a paire of stockes within the towne of Beaminster in the saide mannor; and shall betweene this and the feast of Christmas, cause to be erected one ducking stoole and pillory in places convenyent within the saide towne and mannor of Beminster uppon the paine of five pounds to be leavyed on the said Peter Hoskins, in case default be made in performance of this order."

In the parish accounts for 1773 is the following entry—
 “To Mr. Day for the stocks, £1 : 0 : 0.”

Ten years later the stocks were removed and placed against the west wall of the Market-house, here they remained until broken up about the year 1835.

We do not know where the stocks and pillory stood before being set up against the Market-house, nor are we told the place the ducking-stool dipped the scolding wives of our forefathers.

In the month of May, 1780, “Two Companies of the 50th regiment of foot were quartered in the town of Beamister. They stayed here near a month.”*

The Bridport Records furnish us with some particulars of another trouble which beset our town during the reign of Charles I, and draws aside the curtain on a scene occasioned by the visit of a puppet or marionette show.

DORSET COUNTY SESSIONS HOLDEN AT BRIDPORT, OCTOBER, 1630.

“Forasmuch as complaint was made unto this Court that Wm. Sands the elder, John Sands and Wm. Sands the younger, doe wander up and downe the countrey and about nine others of their company, with certaine blasphemous shewes and sights which they exercise by way of poppett playinge contrary to the Statute made against such unlawfull wanderers: And whereas the constable of Beamister in this countie, and other inhabitants there have now alsoe informed this Court that the said William Sands the elder and his company are come to Beamister aforesaid and there have sett up their shewes of poppett playinge, and there doe exercise their feats not only in the day tyme but alsoe in the night, to the grievance of divers of the inhabitants who cannot keepe their children and servants in their houses by reason that they frequent the said shewes and sights late in the night in a disoredley manner. And likewise that the said John Sands and two others of their company on Sunday last pursued the preacher that preached at Beamister aforesaid, from the Church to his house, and entered the said house and there challenged him for his sermon, and gave him threatninge speeches, and likewise that on Tuesday night last there was an uproare in the said towne of Beamister by reason of a brawle between the said John Sands and a disoredley inhabitant of the same Towne, the said John runninge in a forcible manner into a townsman’s house there to the afrightinge of the people of the same house; whereupon this Court taking the said complaint and informacion into consideration and findinge the same to be true; And further consideringe the great dearth of corne and other victualls at this time, and the extremity that is like to come on the poore of this countrey by reason of the dearth; and alsoe by two severall proclamations his Majestie hath commanded the puttinge in execution the law and statutes against such wanderers, doe hold it very unfitt and inconvenient to suffer the said Sands and his company to exercise their said feats in this county”

* J. B. Russell’s MS.

The order then commands them to remove themselves and their shows on the following Monday, and to depart forthwith out of the county toward the place of their dwelling, and if found again within the county the constables are directed to apprehend them and carry them before a justice to be committed to the next assizes.

In 1638—nine years after the setting up of the parish stocks—there was an order of sessions for the erection of a “House of Correction”* in Beaminster, at the expense of the Division. It is not now known where this house was built, possibly adjoining the old workhouse in East street.

The following entries have been extracted from the parish books—

1733. “Expenses for prosecuting the vagrant that was whipt, 20s.

1748. Apl. 24th. At a Vestry Meeting it was agreed that for the future Every Woman that shall have a Bastard Child within the Parish shall immediately be sent to the house of Correction as the Law Directs.

1758. Jan^{ry} 8th. At a Vestry duly warned & held this day concerning the prosecuting of Sarah Weaver for Felonously carrying away Turfs out of the Tanyard of Mr. Isaac Daniel and We whose Names are hereunto Subscribed do agree that the Said Sarah Weaver shall be prosecuted for the Same at the expence of the Parish at the next Quarter Sessions held at Blandford.

(Signed) George Eveleigh. Jam^s Daniel. John Conway.

Mr. Cooks & Mr. Fox Bill for Prosecuting Sarah Weaver and Relieving her in the small Pox, £6 12s. 11½d.

1770. To Horse Hier & Expenses for Taking up & Keeping John Doling from Monday till Thursday Evening, 14s.”

This latter amount was charged by the parish constable whose duty it was after having arrested a suspect to house and feed him pending the magisterial enquiry.

The theft of a cow in 1818 cost the parish dearly—

‘J. B. Russell for prosecuting Geo. Barratt for stealing a Cow from Sam^l Cox, Esq., £15 4s. 4d.”

The following entries record public floggings in the town—

1830. To the Overseers—For the attendance at Bridport of George Swaffield and David Lane, Constables of Beaminster, and Isaac Daniel Tythingman of Beaminster and John Newman Tythingman of Langdon, on the whipping of Cha^s Downe Gale, at 5s. each—£1 0s. 0d.

* In 1573 it appears that the only House of Correction in this county was at Sherborne; it was removed to Dorchester and united with the County Gaol in 1793.

1834. July 31st. Oversears of Beamister—To I. Daniel—To attending the wepping of John Crabb and Crying is sentence, 5s. Settled, I. Daniel.

(Same date). To the Overseers of the Parish of Beaminster D^r to the Constables and Tythingman.—For attending the Punishment of John Crabb who was tried at the last Quarter Sessions, 15s.

Settled, W^m Sherring, Jun.

Hundred Constable.*

It appears that in this case the “ wepping ” was stopped, for when Crabb was about to be flogged for stealing a loaf of bread, another man in the crowd said it was he who stole the loaf and not Crabb. Mr. William Swatridge on hearing this went to Dr. Phelps the surgeon in attendance, and told him there would be a riot in the town if the whipping was proceeded with, at the same time pointing out the man who admitted the theft.

About the year 1840 a man known as “ Gipsy Small ” was publicly whipped for horse-stealing by “ Jack Ketch.”† The punishment was administered in the Fore-place where the delinquent stood in a waggon bare-backed with his arms and legs tied to one of the lades.

A Mosterton man named Larcombe, a poor half-witted fellow, was flogged by the public hangman opposite the old White Hart Inn early in the forties. His offence was stealing hay at Dibberford, for which he was sentenced to fifty lashes from a cat-o'-nine-tails. Prior to a flogging it was customary to cart the prisoner around the town, accompanied by the parish constable who at several halting places “ cried the sentence.”

John Guy and William Newman were the last of the Parish Constables. The leg chains they used to secure their prisoners with are now in the possession of Mr. W. B. Newman.

With the passing of the *Police Act*, in 1856, the parish constable was seen no more. Then came the establishment of the Dorset County Constabulary, Lieut.-Colonel

* It was customary at one time to appoint Constables and other parish officers at a Court Leet.

In the writer's possession are two Truncheons, relics of the Parish Constables of Pilsdon and Beaminster, both are painted black; the latter is inscribed with gold letters, “ IV. W.R.,” and the former “ Pilsdon ” with the letters V.R. surmounted by a crown.

† Ketch, the hangman who travelled in the train of Jeffreys, and was from morning to night employed at the gallows, for many years transmitted his name to every successor.

Cox being appointed Chief Constable. Superintendent P. W. Mac Hale (with one police constable—William Lavender) was stationed at Beaminster.

In 1857 it was P. C. Lavender's duty to arrest James Seale,* a demented lad of Stoke Abbott, who had murdered a young woman, and then set on fire the lonely cottage in which she dwelt. The Magisterial examination of Seale took place in the Assembly Room at the Red Lion Inn, which—prior to the building of the magistrate's room at the Police Station in 1860—served the purpose of a Court.†

Petty Sessions for the Bridport Petty Sessional Division are now held in the magistrate's room every other month on a Monday at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, alternately with Bridport and Thorncombe.

Superintendents of the Bridport Division stationed at Beaminster—

Supt. Patrick William Mac Hale	appointed	October, 1856.
Supt. Henry Freeman	„	November, 1884.
Supt. George Brooks	„	May, 1892.
Supt. Albert Edward King	„	July, 1908.

Less than a century ago night watchmen patrolled the streets of Beaminster, this we know from the following entries in a parish book—

1831. April 21st. "To J. Marsh. Making two Great Coats with flaps & Capes for the Watchmen, 18/-"

"Novr. 1st Rec^d of Mr. Will^m Clift the Sum of Ten Pounds for Watching the Town by Order of the Vestry.

I say Rec^d by me
the mark of Geo^s x Bugler."

"Received of Mr. Will^m Clift the Overseer of the Parish of Beaminster the sum of £10 for watching the Town from the 8th of April to the 30th of September at 8s. per week. I. Daniel."

1824. "A Great Coat for the Watchman. £1 16s. od."

In addition to a long staff, a rattle, and a lanthorn, the watchman for many years carried a bell attached to his

* Publicly hanged at Dorchester.

† The Royal Arms were set up over the Chairman's seat.

person by a cord round the waist, hence the name "Bellman."

1781. "For the Bellman 28 Pints of Bear, 4/8"*

1789. "Mr. Hine for a Cote for the bellman, 14s. To making same, 3s. 6d."

1767. "July y^e 6th. Paid [towards] the Bellman's quarters Salary, 1s. 6d."†

The Bellman was appointed "To walke the towne at night from 12 of the Clock untill 5 in the morninge the somer time, and from 12 of the clock of night untill 6 in the morninge the winter time."

* * * * *

In 1822 one William Kinglake of Beaminster, who had been previously transported for seven years, was hanged at Ilchester for a burglary committed at Langport. We may picture the motley crowd of Beaminsterians wending their way to that notorious town to see one of their townsmen hanged.

During the eighteenth and early part of the nineteenth century "Hang Fair" attracted thousands of people to Ilchester, who passed the day drinking and dancing at the alehouses. All kinds of debauchery took place at these periodical fairs, which were regularly attended by Beaminster men and women of all ages. An old inhabitant, now deceased, gave the writer a graphic account of "Hang Fair," which in his younger days he seldom missed.

* This was a monthly charge on the parish and continued for many years.

† Richard Symes' Account book.

Chapter XVI.

INNS AND TAVERNS.



THE town appears to have possessed for very many years a large number of public houses in proportion to its population.

In a review of the register for fourteen years, 1767-1780, Hutchins says—"Of those that died, many perhaps shortened their existence by the immoderate use of spirituous liquors."

To-day there are thirteen inns in the parish, one to every 140 inhabitants, *viz.*—

Fore-place—Red Lion,* Greyhound, Swan.

Hogshill Street—White Hart,† New Inn, Royal Oak, Knapp.

East Street—Bell and Crown, Sun.

North Street—Crown (date 1789 on a door).

Fleet Street—Star.

Church Street—Eight Bells.

Beaminster Bottom—Three Horse Shoes (named Traveller's Rest, 1809).

During quite recent years the following inns, and perhaps others, have been closed—

Market House Inn (Fore-place).

Alma (Prout Bridge).

Royal Oak (Gerrard's Green).

Smith's Arms (Hogshill Street).

Lamb and Flag (Shadrack Street).

Manor Arms‡ (North Street).

King's Arms‡ (St. Mary Well Street).

Several of these extinct inns had but a short existence. During the years 1845-55, licences for the sale of beer and cider appear to have been freely granted.

* Rebuilt 1892.

† The White Hart is mentioned in a document dated 1636, Marie Hoskins, Widow, was then the landlady.

‡ Closed 1908.



Photograph by [?]

WHITE HART HOTEL, BEAMINSTOR.

[Valentine & Son.]

In 1729, according to an entry in a parish book, thirty persons held licences for "Selling of Ale," including one John Hoskins, apothecary and parish doctor. The following inns are also mentioned—Half Moon, Boote, Nagg's Head, Crown, Dragon, Five Bells, Shoulder of Mutton, Black Jug, Royal Oak, Cock, New Inn, Red Lyon, George, Bell, White Hart, and Queen's Arms.

In 1749, there is an entry of four shillings "given to the poor that was paid for selling of drink at Beamister ffair without licence."

1749—The Swan, White Horse, and Green Dragon, are mentioned.

1751—Coach and Horses, Fountain, and Plymouth Inn.

1754—Grey Hound, Bell, Lace, Sun, Hare and Hounds, Valiant Soldier, Bull, and Old Inn.

1836—Tunnel Inn (Fleet Street, opposite "Pimlico").

1849—Fox Inn (North Street).

1850—Royal (Hogshill Street).

1855—Alma (Prout Bridge).

1856—Market House Inn (Fore-place).

It is somewhat difficult to locate the site of many of the old taverns, not a few were swept away by fire, when the sign was often transferred to another house in the town.

The King's Arms,* which in 1668, stood in the Fore-place, was for many years the chief hostelry and coaching-house, until the fire of 1781 destroyed a great part of the premises. After that date the White Hart became the halting place of the stage-coaches, and although this quaint old inn escaped the fire which consumed the King's Arms, it was pulled down in 1846, when the present Hotel was erected.

The roomy old White Hart,† roofed with tiles of local make, had small diamond-shaped panes of glass set in its mullioned windows, a massive portico entrance, and ample stabling around the inn-yard which was approached by an arched gateway.

About the year 1750 the following inns *were in the Fore-place*—King's Arms, Red Lyon, Greyhound, Shoulder of Mutton, Nag's Head, White Horse, Coach and Horses, Swan, George, and Plymouth Inn.

* See page 128.

† In 1692 the expenses "at ye Dean's visitation at the White Hart" were £3 17s. 0d.

The Bull Inn* was in North Street, 1829, at that time and until quite recent years called Bull Street.

The Green Dragon once in Fleet Street, was transferred to East Street, and about the year 1809 to Hogshill Street.

The Five Bells, in St. Mary Well Street, changed its sign to that of Eight Bells, probably about the time the bells in the tower were recast in 1765.

The Fountain Inn stood in Hogshill Street, its sign was moved to Church Street—then called St. Mary Well Street—early in the last century. The Mason's Arms was also in Hogshill Street.

The George, Valiant Soldier, Hare and Hounds, were in Fleet Street, also the Baker's Arms, now the Star Inn, the latter formerly in Hogshill Street.

In 1842 the Swan Inn was burnt down, but shortly afterwards rebuilt.

In 1859 James Bartlett, a fellmonger, kept a small beer-house in St. Mary Well Street, also Thomas Bowditch at Half Acre; and a year or two later the Poltimore Arms† appeared in Gerrard's Green.

The Sun Inn, together with five thatched cottages once occupied a site—now a field—opposite the ancient home of Richard Symes, and later of Peter Cox, near the Congregational Chapel. During the autumn of 1861 these houses were burnt down, and the Sun transferred its sign to the top of East Street, where the inn still is.

In 1855 Benjamin Brinson, Samuel Galpin and James Warren held off licences for the sale of beer and cider. Brinson, who was also proprietor of the Pottery Works, brewed the beer he sold, which had a local reputation and was supplied in small barrels.

Near the first milestone on the Bridport road, at the beginning of the last century stood an old tavern known by the name of Waterpot Inn, but no trace of it now remains.

In olden days many of the inn-keepers brewed the beer they sold, and continued to do so until quite recent times at the White Hart, Red Lion, Eight Bells, Swan, Crown and New Inn.

By a decree, dated 1612, "none were to tipple more than one hour in one house," beer was forbidden to be sold during the hours of divine service, and brewing on "Fast Days" was punishable with a small fine.

* "1798 For Liquor at the Bull Inn when P. Fuzard was Crowned 5s."

† Lord Poltimore was the Master of the Cattistock Fox Hounds 1860-72.

The names of several Beaminster maltsters have come down to us. In 1724 Thomas Bryant was a maltster and flannel weaver here, and in 1792 William Coward, Daniel Cox and Thomas Harris were local maltsters. According to a directory for the year 1829, following the same occupation were—

John Hearn Barratt—Pimlico, Fleet Street.

Messrs. Bishop and Waygood—Market-place.

Thomas Frampton—Fleet Street.

Messrs. William Tite, Joseph and John Garrett (also brewers and wine merchants)—Church Street.

In 1836, William Eveleigh—Fore-place.

John Milverton—The Swan—Fore-place.

William Swatridge—Fore-place.

L. H. Pine (maltster and brewer)—East Street.

One or two of the old malt houses* still remain, and at a few of the inns relics of the brew-houses may yet be seen crumbling to decay, for since the growth of the tied-house system, every inn in Beaminster has been brought under the iron grip of some brewery company.

The following bill rendered to the Churchwardens of Beaminster 26th August, 1842, may be of interest; it would of course be paid by the ratepayers.

George Alexander
White Hart
Commercial Inn
Beaminster.

					£	s.	d.
16 Dinners & Dessert	..	..	..	..	8	0	0
Brandy	..	..	..	..	0	4	0
Ale, Cider, &c.	..	..	..	..	0	3	0
Wine	..	..	..	..	5	15	6
Lemonades, &c.	..	..	..	..	0	5	6
Luncheons—Servants, Clerkes, &c.	..	..	..	..	0	2	0
Porter, 2/- Beer, 6d.	..	..	..	..	0	2	6
26 Grogs	..	..	..	..	0	17	4
11 Dinners	..	..	..	..	1	2	0
Ale, Beer, &c.	..	..	..	..	0	4	0
Tobacco	..	..	..	..	0	2	0
Paper	..	..	..	..	0	0	1
Corn	..	..	..	..	0	6	6
Hay	..	..	..	..	0	2	0
Cigars	..	..	..	..	0	1	6
Wine	..	..	..	..	0	11	0
Servants	..	..	..	..	0	8	0
					£18 6 11		

* Shortmoor School-house, demolished in 1883, was once a malt-house.

This account is endorsed "Mr. Geo. Alexander's bill for 2 shares in 5 of the Dinner at the Visitation of the Dean of Salisbury—£7 : 6 : 9."

* * * * *

The study of Inn signs is interesting. The "White Hart" is a common sign in the West of England, and its origin is variously accounted for. Under the ancient forest law, when a favourite stag of the king's was lost, a proclamation called "Hart-royal" was issued providing that whoever should chase or kill that stag his punishment should be the "royal displeasure"—a fearful one if the offender happened to have no friend at court. King Henry III, it seems, had a favourite white hart in Blackmoor Forest, and, either by accident or design, it was killed by one Sir John de la Lind, and the form in which the monarch's displeasure manifested itself was the levying of a heavy fine on the offender's lands, to be paid annually into the royal treasury. The fine was paid up to the middle of the seventeenth century.

Another explanation is thus given by Sir Halliday Wagstaffe, Keeper of the Woods and Forests in the reign of Henry VII. He says that the King, accompanied by several lords of the court, Philip, Archduke of Spain, Joan his wife, and many other ladies, feeling disposed for a day's hunting, repaired to the New Forest for that purpose. A celebrated white hart called Albert, a noble looking animal, was selected for the day's sport. Albert showed them some fine running, and the chase continued till nearly the close of the day, when at length, being hard pressed by the hounds, he crossed a river near Ringwood and finally stood at bay in a meadow. His pursuers came up just as the hounds were about to make a sacrifice of their victim, when the ladies interceded for the noble animal who had given them such a fine day's sport. In answer to their prayers, the hounds were called off, and the animal was secured. He was taken to Ringwood, and a gold collar being placed round his neck, he was removed to Windsor, while Halliday Wagstaffe was that day knighted in Ringwood. The house of entertainment at which the King and his courtiers partook of some refreshment had its sign altered to that of the White Hart, and has retained its name to this day.

The "Red Lion" became an inn sign early in the seventeenth century. When James I ascended the throne he substituted in the royal arms the red lion for the wyvern of the Tudors; the red lion, with two unicorns for supporters, was, prior to the union of England and Scotland, the national emblem on the coat of arms for Scotland. The arms thus altered were ordered by the King to be displayed in all churches, law courts, town halls, and other places.

The royal arms were once set up in the assembly room of the old Red Lion Inn here, and remained until the premises were demolished. The room was periodically used as a law court until the erection of the present Police Station, and adjoining Magistrate's Hall.

The sign of the "Greyhound" probably dates from an early period. The Rev. R. Cutler, in his *Notes on the Durotriges* says, "Greyhounds belong specially to Dorchester. They were the 'Celtic hounds' used by the Gallic tribes in Ancient Britain, well known and highly prized by the Romans, . . . it may not be too great a stretch of fancy to suppose that the Greyhound got its name from the imperial dogs."

The "Swan" as an Inn sign, arises, as Larwood and Hotten's *History of Sign Boards* explains, from the fondness of the bird for the liquid element.

The "Royal Oak" is of course a memento of the days when Charles II played hide and seek with his pursuers, after the battle of Worcester, 1651.

The "Eight Bells," close to the Church, was once the convenient haunt of the ringers, and its sign faithfully states the number of bells in the tower.

"Sun" and "Star" Inns. The sun was one of the badges of Richard II and that fact may have popularized the sign; most probably, however, it is, like the star, an astronomical sign, appropriated direct.

"Bell and Crown" Inn. It is probable that there were at one time two houses, one called the Bell and the other the Crown, and that the signs were amalgamated when one inn ceased to exist.

"Three Horse Shoes" Inn. Nowadays the horse shoe is a symbol of good luck, but in times not long ago it was nailed up over doors as a protection against witches. Lord Nelson had a horse-shoe nailed to the mast of the *Victory*. Why an inn should display three horse-shoes

instead of one is a puzzle, unless it be on the principle that *three* would be more efficacious than one. Often the landlord of an inn bearing this sign was also a blacksmith, part of whose trade was shoeing horses.

Chapter XVII.

COACHES. ROAD WAGGONS.

COACHES.

"Ah! when the wold vo'k went abroad
They thought it vast enough,
If vow'r good ho'ses beät the road
Avore the coach's ruf."



HERE is a pleasant glamour surrounding the old-time stage-coach, pleasanter no doubt than the reality, for it was one of those links with olden times that we value most when we have lost them.

The iron horse has now robbed country towns and villages of the picturesque procession of stage-coaches, and all the business, bustle, and excitement they brought. There, however, yet remain a few Beaminsterians who cherish pleasant memories of the old coaching-days.

Now-a-days many who travel along our roads rush through the country at breakneck speed regardless of the natural beauties of the district.

It was on January 15th, 1854, that the London and Exeter Coach went down for the last time.*

With the passing of stage-coaches the poetry of travelling has gone, and all that now remains are just a few old roadside inns† dotted by the highways, with large projecting windows constructed to command a view of the road, both up and down. It was in their ample stables that relays of horses stood ready harnessed awaiting the coach's arrival.

The Anglo-Saxon highways were distinguished by the

* The coach "Coronet" ran from Bridport to Exeter until 1859-60.

† The "Hunter's Lodge," between Beaminster and Axminster, is an excellent example of a wayside coaching inn.

designations *Anes Waenes Gang*, or one waggon's way, four feet broad, and *Twegna Waena Ganweg* or two waggons' way, probably eight feet or more, a distinction which shews the origin of our narrow country roads.*

As years rolled by the roads from neglect got into a very dilapidated state, they were not only at times impassable, but offered every facility for highway robbery and murder, and roadside gibbets were common objects of the country.

It is recorded that about the year 1700 the roads in this part of England were "so rocky and narrow that it was not possible for farmers to use waggons," they therefore carried their corn and other produce to market on horse-back.

When at length carts and waggons came into use, bells were attached to the harness of the horses, the object of course being to announce the vehicle's approach.

Horseback was almost the universal mode of travelling, and ladies seated on pillions rode behind their husbands or servants; they mounted and alighted by means of those "upping stones" still seen by old farm houses and in many villages.

An early advertisement relating to stage-coach travelling appeared in the *Mercurius Politicus* for April 8th, 1658—

"From the 26th day of April, 1658, there will continue to go stage-coaches from the George Inn, without Aldersgate, London, unto the several cities and towns, for the rates and at the times hereafter mentioned and declared.

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

To Salisbury in two days for XXs.

To Blandford and Dorchester in two days and a half for XXXs.

To Exmaster (Axminster), Nunnington (Honiton) and Exeter in four days, XLs."

Toward the close of the sixteenth century, when Queen Elizabeth travelled in her lumbering and springless stage-coach, she was attended by *footmen*, whose duty it was to help the coach out of the ruts, and to prevent it from toppling over.

After the passing of the *General Turnpike Act* in 1755 main roads were rapidly improved and a great impetus given to the mail and stage-coach system throughout the

* Fosbroke's *Encyclopædia of Antiquities*.

country, which in the early years of the nineteenth century had attained a wonderful degree of efficiency.

Pulman says—

“Sixteen four-horse coaches passed daily through Axminster in various directions, but chiefly from Exeter to London, until at length the journey between those places, through Honiton, Bridport, Dorchester, and Salisbury—some through Chard, and Crewkerne, and others through Ilminster and Yeovil—to London, a distance of about one hundred and seventy miles, was regularly performed in sixteen hours.* This was effected by means of excellent cattle and short stages. All the appointments were in keeping, from the polished and brass-mounted harness up to the swell coachman and scarlet-coated mail-guard, with cheery horn and formidable blunderbus.”

These were days before steam and electricity had revolutionized the world. There were but few newspapers or journals, and news spread slowly through country districts. On the main roads it was the coach that brought the latest tidings. In those stirring years of battle by land and sea, the news of the latest victory was carried from one end of the land to the other with wonderful rapidity by “flying coaches.”

On special occasions, as when the news of Trafalgar or one of the great Peninsular battles reached London, the coaches were decked with laurels, so that their appearance proclaimed their news to every town and village through which they passed.†

Particulars of a West of England coach is contained in a bill dated 1709.‡

“Exeter Coach
In Three Days
And Plymouth in Four.

Sets out from the Bell-Inn, in Friday-Street, London, and from the Oxford-Inn, Exeter, every Monday and Thursday, arrives at the said Inns every Wednesday and Saturday, and at Plymouth every Thursday and Monday. Inside passengers to pay Two pounds Five Shillings to and from London to Exeter, and Fifteen Shillings to and from Exeter to Plymouth.

Outside Passengers and Children in Lap to pay half the Fare as above. Each Inside Passenger to be allowed Sixteen Pounds Weight of Luggage, all above to pay Two Pence per Pound to Exeter, and Two Pence Half-penny to Plymouth.

Perform'd (with God's Permission) By
William and George Iliff.”

* 1837.

† It was the “Taunton Coach” that brought the news to Beaminster “Peace proclaimed—End of Crimean War,” in 1856; the coach-horses were bedecked with ribbons, and the good news quickly spread. At night the windows of the Town-hall were illuminated by candles and a bonfire kindled in the Fore-place.

‡ Mr. A. M. Broadley's collection.

In those days there was never much hurry ; when and where the coach was to stop *en route* was often determined by a ballot of the passengers, who generally appointed a chairman at the beginning of the journey. Sometimes the driver would be interested, and try to force the passengers to stop at a certain inn for meals.

About the year 1739 the "Fly Coach" from London to Exeter "slept" the fifth night from Town at the Ship Inn, Morcombelake,* now no longer on the road owing to the highway having been diverted. The coach proceeded next morning to Axminster, where "it" breakfasted, and there a *woman* barber "shaved the coach."

In 1772 a stage-coach started from the "Saracen's Head," London, "every Monday and Thursday morning for Dorchester, 123 miles, and Bridport, 207 miles [*sic*]. Fare to Bridport £1 12s. 0d."

In 1829, according to Pigot & Co.'s *Directory*, the following coaches ran from Beaminster.

To Bridport, the Royal Mail Coach, every evening at five.

To Taunton, Royal Mail Coach, every morning at nine.

In 1840, coaches are scheduled—

To Bridport, Royal Mail Coach, from White Hart Inn, daily, at half-past 8 p.m., returns 6 a.m.

To Taunton, Royal Mail Coach, from White Hart Inn, daily, at 6 a.m., returns at half-past 8 p.m.

To Taunton and Bridgwater, the "Victoria Coach" from White Hart Inn, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at half-past 1 p.m., returns, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 3 p.m.

To Weymouth, the "Victoria Coach" from White Hart Inn, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 3 p.m., returns Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, half-past 1 p.m.

Beaminster was also a stopping place for two other coaches, *viz.*—

"Bath to Bridport and Beaminster, from York House Hotel, 9 morn."

"Bristol to Bridport [*viâ* Beaminster], Royal Mail, from the White Lion Coach Office, every morn. at quarter-past 10."†

* This was the Inn where the Judges, when on circuit, spent a night.

† Robson's *Directory*, 1840.

In 1855, one coach only passed through Beaminster on its journey to Taunton from Bridport, *viz.* the "Royal Mail Coach" daily, Sundays excepted. Fare, Beaminster to Taunton, 9s.

Four years later (1859) a coach "The Royal Day Mail" ran through Beaminster, starting from the Bull Inn, Bridport, at 6.45 a.m., to Martock, setting out on the return journey at 3 p.m., it was due to arrive at Bridport at 7 p.m.

In 1860 the Mail Coach stopped, and the "Bridport, Beaminster and Crewkerne-station Omnibus"* service was inaugurated.

It was during that year, on July 18th, the railway between Yeovil and Exeter was opened for traffic. As the first passenger train passed over the line, the station platforms at Crewkerne, Axminster, and Honiton were kept by Volunteers. A large party of Directors connected with the railway "were received at Crewkerne by so large a number of gentlemen in white kid gloves and adorned with white rosettes that the sight gave one the impression of a gigantic marriage ceremony."

The following entry is extracted from an account book of Richard Symes—

"1777. May y^e 26. Pd. for Mr. Warr's Post Coach† to Carry Capt. Syme's Family & Mine to Bridport Sea Side, £001 . 07 . 00.

Other Expenses attending y^e Jaunt, £000 . 11 . 04."

This was probably the only conveyance let on hire in Beaminster, for within living memory one inn solely did posting with a single horse gig.

Beaminster is 137 miles by coach road from London. The route is *via* Yeovil (15), Sherborne (20), Shaftesbury (36), Salisbury (56), Andover (74), Whitchurch (80), Basingstoke (91), Staines (120), London—Hyde Park Corner—137 miles; or by way of Dorchester (17), Blandford (33), to Salisbury 56 miles.

ROAD WAGGONS.

At least three hundred years ago communication between country towns and villages was kept up by carriers.

The country was covered with a net-work of carriers'

* Edmund Dyke, proprietor.

† A carriage hired out for pleasure.

routes. A *Carriers' Directory*, published in 1637, gives a list of the inns where "Carriers, Waggoners, Foot-posts, and Higglers," were wont to put up, with the days of their coming and going.

The higglers of days gone by were men in a smaller way of business than the regular carriers; they owned a horse and cart, and carried goods from place to place, but whose chief occupation was the buying of poultry and dairy produce from farmers and cottagers, and the selling to his customers of small wares brought from the shops in town.

The road-waggon—great roomy lumbering vehicles—travelled with what would be to us an appalling degree of slowness, but they went to and fro drawn by four horses with great regularity. The service might be a daily or weekly one, but the carrier went his journey, acting as the universal newsmonger, as well as occasional letter-carrier, and conveyer of goods of every possible kind.

In 1709 the "Exeter Fly Waggon" set out every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from the Bell Inn, Friday Street, London, to Exeter in six days. The waggon carried "Goods and Passengers to Blandford, Dorchester, Bridport, Axminster, Honiton, and all Places adjacent; and also to Plymouth and Falmouth, and all parts in Cornwall."

Among the carriers leaving London for Dorset in 1772 were the following—"Carriers from 'Saracens Head', Friday Street (London), Monday, Thursday and Saturday at 3 a.m., for Cranborne (96 miles), Blandford and Milton Abbey (115 miles), Cerne (115 miles), Evershot (129 miles), Beaminster and Broad Windsor (158 miles), Bridport and Lyme (144 miles)."*

"From the 'Bell,' Friday Street (London), Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 9 a.m., for Blandford, Cerne, Beaminster, Broad Windsor, Bridport, Lyme and Charmouth."

The following extract is from the *Universal British Directory of Trade, Commerce and Manufacture*, 1792—

"Russell's Waggon, from Exeter to London, passes through this town [Beaminster] every Thursday; and two waggoners from Bristol to Bridport, pass through every Saturday."

* The mileage seems to be approximate.

In 1829, the following road-waggon conveyed goods and passengers of the poorer folk from Beaminster—

- To London*—Whitmash & Co., from Hogshill Street, every Monday and Friday.
- To Axminster*—Robert Gill, from the Red Lion, every Wednesday.
- To Bridport*—John Perry, every Tuesday and Saturday. Thomas Chaffey, every Tuesday. Tapscott, every Thursday from the White Hart.
- To Bristol*—Whitmash & Co., from Hogshill Street, every Monday. John Perry, from the White Hart, every Tuesday and Saturday. James Webber, and Robert and William Gange, from the Red Lion every Saturday.
- To Haslebury*—John Perry, from the White Hart, every Tuesday and Saturday.
- To Ilminster*—Tapscott, from the White Hart, every Tuesday.
- To Maiden Newton*—Bridge, from the White Hart, every Wednesday.
- To Yeovil*—Whitmash & Co., from Hogshill Street. Thomas Chaffey, from the White Hart, every Friday; and Hawker, from the Red Lion, days uncertain.

In 1840 the following carriers are mentioned in a directory—

- “To Bath and Bristol, Woodbury & Co., from his own Office, East Street, Tuesdays and Fridays, returns Wednesdays and Saturdays.
- To Bridport and Bristol, Whitmash & Co., from his own Office, Hogshill Street, Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays, returns same days.”

Carriers from Dorchester to Beaminster—

- “Bridge, from Phoenix Inn, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; returns Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.
- Lodge, from Phoenix Inn, leaves Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; returns Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.”

1851. From Hunt's *Directory* we learn that there were carriers from Beaminster to—

“ London and all parts of the West, Ford & Co's Waggons from the Red Lion, tuesdays and saturdays, at noon. Bridport, Henry Lathey, daily.
Dorchester, Hayward, tuesdays & fridays. Lawrence, same day.
Taunton, Bridport and Yeovil, Crocker's Vans, tuesdays, thursdays & saturdays.”

Kelly's *Directory*, published June, 1855, states—

“ Carriers to Bridport, Charles Chaffey, daily.
Yeovil, George Tucker, and Edwin Hooper, fridays, and return same day.
Dorchester, George Lawrence, tuesdays and fridays.”

In 1859 there were carriers to—

“ Bridport, Job Crabb, daily, sundays excepted, returning every day.
Yeovil, George Tucker, tuesday and friday, and returns same day.”

No longer does a road-waggon set out *from* Beaminster.

In 1885, the last journey to Yeovil, *via* Corscombe and Halstock, was made by the then carrier, Charles Ebdon; and in 1896 to Bridport, by Alfred Woodbury.

We are still familiar with road-waggons, for two come into the town daily, one from Crewkerne, the other from Bridport. Although links with the past, they are however but miniatures compared with the ponderous four-horse vehicles of bygone days.


An old inhabitant, long since dead, told the writer that when a girl she once travelled from Beaminster to Basingstoke in one of Whitmash's road-waggons “to take the train for London.”*

* The line to Basingstoke from Nine Elms, opened June, 1839.

Chapter XVIII.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

GIRLS AND INFANTS.

T was on July 26th, 1830, that a Day School was first established here for the instruction of girls in plain needlework, knitting, reading, and moral and religious duties—writing and arithmetic do not appear at first to have been included in the tuition—supported entirely by voluntary subscriptions.

It is a remarkable fact that in those “good old days” the poorer *girls* of this parish, in common with many other country places, received no education whatever, except such as was given in the Church and Congregational Sunday schools.

The following preface in the handwriting of the Rev. Thomas Evans—the then Curate-in-Charge here—appears in the school account book 1830-52.

“The extreme idleness and ignorance of Needle-work which prevails among many of the children of the Parish of Beaminster but more especially of the Children in the Workhouse, makes it desirable that a School should be established by Subscription, for the instruction of Girls in common needle-work, knitting, reading, and their moral and religious duties.

It is therefore proposed that such School be immediately established, and that every Subscriber of five shillings the Year shall have the privilege of sending one Girl to the School gratis, and an additional Girl for every five shillings subscribed.

That the School shall be kept in the School Room adjoining the Workhouse—that no Girl be admitted under five Years of age, nor above twelve, and that all the Girls in the Workhouse be admitted gratuitously. That the School shall be under the superintendence of the Ladies who are Subscribers of ten shillings and upwards yearly.”

It appears that for the first eight months of the school’s existence, Elizabeth Paul was the only paid teacher, at a salary of *one shilling per week*.

On February 21st, 1831, Sally Crabb was appointed Head-mistress, her remuneration being six pounds a year. At the same time an assistant teacher—Eliza Cox*—was engaged at a salary of six shillings per month.

The subscriptions for the first year amounted to £10 17s. 6d., which was sufficient to meet all the expenses, leaving a balance of £2 6s. 8d. in the treasurer's hands.

On November 2nd, 1831, this school was united to the "National Society for Educating the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church,"† and assumed in after years the shorter title "National School."

In 1834 Eliza Cox became Head-mistress at a salary of three shillings and sixpence per week, being assisted by Sally Crabb, under whom she had previously served, whose salary remained always at two shillings and sixpence a week.

After five years of free education the children were required to contribute one penny per week, or if taught writing—which was an extra subject—twopence.

The School was conducted in a building adjoining the Parish Workhouse, East street. The schoolroom, according to an old plan, was about 40ft. long by 18ft. wide, with a low ceiling; over it was another room in which a Night-school for lads was conducted.

About the year 1840,‡ the children were transferred to a larger and more lofty schoolroom—part of the main building—facing the street. This room was 64ft. by 18ft. 6ins.

In 1848 Eliza Cox was married to John Clarke, a Petty Officer in the Navy, but she continued Head-mistress of the school, at a salary of £20 a year until the end of 1851. Eliza Clarke died at Beaminster 30th December, 1901.

During the year 1849 William Cox was paid nine shillings "for teaching Monitors writing."

In January, 1851, Jane Hooper was appointed Head-mistress at a salary of £13 a year.

For some years commencing 1848 the school received an annual grant of £5 from "Betton's Charity"§ on condition "That the Government or Diocesan Inspector of

* Daughter of William Cox, a weaver, and conductor of the Church Sunday and Night schools.

† Founded 1811.

‡ Small lending library established at the school.

§ Entered in the accounts as "Ironmonger's Society" paid in 1858.

Schools, or any Inspector to be appointed by the Trustees be admitted from time to time to examine into the efficiency of the School . . .” How long this payment continued is not now ascertainable as an account book is missing.

On August 1st, 1867, the foundation stone of the present school buildings in Hogshill street was laid by Mrs. Mary Cox, who had recently taken up her residence at the Manor House.

The children attending the Church Sunday school, to the number of about 250, together with their teachers marched to the parish church, each class being preceded by a flag or banner, and almost every child wore a profuse nosegay in honour of the event. After a short service the procession re-formed and proceeded to the site of the new schools, headed by the parish choirs, the Vicar (Rev. A. Codd) and his Curate, Lieut.-Colonel and Mrs. Cox, the contractors, churchwardens and others, accompanied by the Burton Bradstock drum and fife band. After the ceremony the children were entertained in the grounds of the Manor House.

On September 3rd, 1868, the Schools were formally opened by the then Bishop of Salisbury (Dr. W. Kerr Hamilton). The proceedings of the day were commenced by a service in the parish church, which had been tastefully decorated for the occasion.

The following clergy, the Revs. Prebendary Broadley, H. O. Francis, McDowell, R. Keddle, Morres, S. C. Malan, Wills, Maynard, Willis, Lester-Lester, H. Rawlinson, Housman, Green, Chowne, Percival Ward, M. L. Lee, Hon. and Rev. A. Spring-Rice, F. Parham, Brine, Thompson, Adams, Compton, Tregarthen, Molony, accompanied by the Bishop and the Vicar (Rev. A. Codd), together with the surpliced choristers marched in procession to the Church, where Evening Prayer was intoned by the Rev. C. W. Molony (Curate). The lessons were read by the Vicar and a sermon preached by the Bishop.

After the service the procession re-formed and proceeded to the “mixed schoolroom,” where the ceremony of consecration took place. Then followed “a splendid *dejeuner* laid by Mr. Squire of the White Hart,” at which Lieut.-Colonel Cox presided; the Vice-chairs were occupied by the Rev. A. Codd and Mr. Jas. Rawlins, one of the churchwardens. Many ladies were present at the feast, also the Bishop whose health was proposed by the chairman.

"The Colonel" was no doubt a most popular President, for it is recorded* that on the Bishop proposing his health the large company assembled lustily sang "For he's a jolly good fellow."

The building—said to be in the Gothic style of architecture—is constructed of random stone work, all dressings being of Ham-hill stone. It contains a girls' schoolroom, 45ft. by 18ft., and a classroom, 21ft. 6ins. by 15ft., accommodating 112 children; also an infants' schoolroom, 40ft. by 20ft., with a classroom, 30ft. by 16ft., with accommodation for 118 infants. Both rooms are lofty with open roof and rafters of varnished pine.

In addition a dwelling-house was built in which the Head-mistresses of both schools now reside.

The architects of the buildings were Messrs. Slader and Carpenter. Builders, Messrs. John Chick, David Hann, and Robert Chambers.

Since the year 1868 both the boys and girls of the Church Sunday school have here regularly attended for instruction, the children having been transferred from the old Work-house premises in East street.

The following subscription list and statement of accounts may prove of interest.

BEAMINSTER NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

<i>Local Subscriptions—</i>			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
The Lord Bishop of Salisbury (deceased)	..	..	20	0	0			
Sir Henry Oglander, Bart.	..	..	105	0	0			
"Beaminster Musical Society" (Concert)	..	..	14	4	7			
Mr. J. Chick (deceased)	..	..	5	0	0			
Rev. Alfred Codd	..	..	30	0	0			
H. C. Compton, Esq.	..	..	25	0	0			
Mr. E. Coombs	..	..	30	0	0			
Lieut.-Colonel Cox	..	..	200	0	0			
Ditto (Cost of Enfranchisement)	..	..	10	0	0			
Mr. Peter Cox	..	..	100	0	0			
Ditto (Law Expenses)	..	..	20	11	2			
Miss G. Cox	..	..	15	0	0			
Mr. George Cox	..	..	10	0	0			
G. W. Digby, Esq.	..	..	51	0	0			
Mr. W. J. Daniel	..	..	12	12	0			
Mr. T. P. Daniel	..	..	6	6	0			
Mr. J. B. Dunn	..	..	10	0	0			
Ecclesiastical Commissioners	..	..	15	0	0			
Friends, <i>per</i> Rev. A. Codd	..	..	8	5	0			

* *Bridport News*, September 5th, 1868

Mr. J. Gilbert (deceased)	..	..	..	5	0	0
S. S. Keddle, Esq.	..	..	..	30	0	0
Miss Keddle	..	..	..	2	0	0
Miss C. E. Keddle	..	..	..	7	10	0
Ditto (Sale of Work)	..	..	..	4	19	1
E. B. Kitson, Esq.	..	..	..	20	0	0
Mr. J. L. Kitson	..	..	..	5	0	0
Mr. Robert Knight (deceased)	..	..	..	5	0	0
Rev. Alfred Lush	..	..	..	50	0	0
O. S., * <i>per</i> Rev. A. Codd	..	..	..	41	0	0
Mr. James Rawlins	..	..	..	15	0	0
Mr. E. Slade	..	..	..	5	0	0
Miss Stacey	..	..	..	2	0	0
Mr. G. Squire	..	..	..	2	0	0
Messrs. Toleman	..	..	..	10	0	0
Messrs. Williams & Co.	..	..	..	10	0	0

902 7 10

Various (By Rev. A. Codd)—

Earl Eldon	..	..	..	5	0	0
Rev. P. Compton	..	..	..	5	0	0
Rev. G. Deedes	..	..	..	2	2	0
J. Floyer, Esq., M.P.	..	..	..	2	2	0
Mr. Gould	..	..	..	2	0	0
Dr. Hawkins	..	..	..	5	0	0
Rev. Dr. Hodges	..	..	..	1	0	0
W. C. Lambert, Esq.	..	..	..	2	0	0
Lieut.-Colonel Marryat (deceased)	..	..	..	5	0	0
Prebendary Majendie (deceased)	..	..	..	5	0	0
Prebendary Morrice	..	..	..	5	0	0
Hon. W. B. Portman, M.P.	..	..	..	3	0	0
Rev. R. W. Pulteney	..	..	..	25	0	0
G. Sturt, Esq., M.P.	..	..	..	3	0	0
Dean of Salisbury	..	..	..	5	0	0

Offerings at the Opening of the Schools	..	..	..	75	4	0
Visitation Offertory, &c.	..	..	..	21	18	4
National School Reserve Fund (1857-1868)	..	..	..	6	11	11
Interest at Williams & Co's	..	..	..	67	5	6
Ditto Savings' Bank	..	..	..	14	7	9
	..	..	..	20	9	5
National Society Grant	..	..	..	34	17	2
Diocesan Education Board	..	..	..	100	0	0
Committee of Council on Education	..	..	..	40	0	0
Adams' Trust†	..	..	..	307	2	6
Cholmondeley Trust	..	..	..	300	0	0
	..	..	..	30	0	0

£1,885 7 3

* It was the custom of the late Mr. J. Barratt Dunn to refund the whole of his salary as Organist to the Vicar for charitable purposes.

† "Gilbert Adams'" Charity.

PAYMENTS.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Messrs. Chambers' Contract and Extras ..				87	14	5
Messrs. Chick and Hann ditto				379	16	5
Messrs. Toleman ditto				101	19	9
Purchase of Site				225	0	0
Enfranchisement	10	0	0			
Law Expenses	20	11	2			
Stamps, &c.	11	0	10			
Architect's Commission and Expenses ..				41	12	0
Surveyor's Charges				94	5	2
Cost of Levelling, Gravel, Carting, Labour, &c.				20	0	0
Furniture for School Room				18	18	6
Ditto School House				47	19	9
Messrs. Toleman, Laying on Gas, &c. ..				43	12	9½
Beament, Fencing				26	8	1
Printing, &c., for Opening	1	10	6½	2	16	7
Various expenses ditto	2	6	10			
Postages, Parcels, &c.				3	17	4½
Various Petty Expenses				2	14	8
Balance in hand				2	4	11
				2	6	10
				£1,885	7	3

Alfred Codd, *Treasurer*.

Audited this 23rd day of September, 1871.

Samuel S. Cox	} <i>Managers.</i>
Peter Cox	
James Rawlins	

MISTRESSES OF GIRLS' SCHOOL.

Date of Appointment.

1830—Elizabeth Paul.	1870—Miss Tucker.
1831—Sally Crabb.	1876—Miss Manning.
1834—Miss Eliza Cox.	1877—Miss S. A. Hinton.
1852—Miss Ellen Stripp.	1894—Miss Mary Freeman.
1859—Miss Ellen Viney.	1897—Miss B. Shaw.
1867—Miss Spray.	1906—Miss E. S. North.

MISTRESSES OF INFANTS' SCHOOL.

Date of Appointment.

1874—Miss S. S. Coker.	1876—Miss J. Trew.	1892—Miss M. Wills.
------------------------	--------------------	---------------------

The following table has been compiled from an old School account book—

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Expenses.</i>	<i>No. of scholars.</i>	<i>Cost per child.</i>
1830-1	£8 10 0	67	2/6
1831-2	£12 10 0	58	4/3
1832-3	£13 5 0	61	4/6
1833-4	£14 8 0	62	4/8
1834-5	£15 6 0	60	5/1
1835-6	£17 4 0	54	6/4
1836-7	£21 1 0	Numbers not stated.	
1837-8	£24 1 0		
1838-9	£25 10 0		
1839-40	£25 12 0		
1840-1	£25 10 0		8/6*
1841-2	£25 0 0		9/5*
1842-3	£25 18 0		
1843-4	£25 15 0		
1844-5	£28 5 0		
1845-6	£27 18 0		12/8*
1846-7	£28 8 0		
1847-8	£31 17 0		11/9*
1848-9	£32 10 0		
1849-50	£38 0 0		
1850-1	£35 11 0		
1851-2	£35 5 0		

According to the return made by the Rev. A. C. Richings (Vicar) for 1854, the school then contained eighty children. Income, £33. Expenditure, £40 10s. 0d.

In 1858 there were 110 girls in the school but no boys; the expenditure for the year amounted to £47 1s. 10d.

It is recorded that in 1860 there were on the register 33 boys and 71 girls. Total, 104. That year the expenses were £45 19s. 10½d. Taking a period of twenty years, 1861-81, the school fees averaged about £32 a year. In 1891 school fees were abolished.

BOYS' ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

Prior to the passing of an Act of Parliament in 1870,† boys of this parish, *who so desired*, were educated in "Tucker's Free School," at Shortmoor.

The Act required a compulsory local rate, a represen-

* Assuming that there were sixty children in the school.

† Down to 1870 the State left the work of education almost entirely to voluntary efforts, during that year *Forster's Education Act* was passed.

tative local authority, and compulsory attendance of children at school. School Boards were established where the school accommodation was insufficient, or where an application was made by the electors. Compulsory attendance could be enforced if the Board desired, but no provision was made for compulsion apart from School Boards.

In 1876 another Act was passed which made compulsion general, and in 1891 education was made free for all between the age of three and fifteen years.

At Christmas, 1872, Tucker's Free School under the old régime came to an end, as under the *Elementary Education Act* the funds of the charity were no longer available.

In the old schoolhouse at Shortmoor the Beaminster Boys Public Elementary School was established, January, 1873.

In 1872 the following circular was printed and distributed in the parish—

CIRCULAR.

Beaminster, November, 1872.

Boys' Public Elementary School at Beaminster.

SIR,

By a Scheme under the Elementary Schools' Act for the management of Tucker's Charity, the Funds which hitherto have been available for the support of a Free School for Boys at Shortmoor, are henceforth to be applied to the establishing and maintaining of Middle Class Schools for this District. It is therefore necessary under the Elementary Education Act, 1870, that the Parishioners of Beaminster should at once make other arrangements for a Public Elementary School for Boys.

The Trustees of Gilbert Adams' Charity have intimated that they will be willing, with the consent of the Charity Commissioners, to convey the Site and Buildings of the Old School House and Premises in East Street, for the purposes of an Elementary Boys' School, provided there be a reasonable prospect that the School may be maintained upon voluntary principles; and the sum of £1000 will also be available from Tucker's Charity, to provide such Buildings and accommodation as will satisfy the requirements of the Education Department.

The School will henceforth be in a position to claim an Annual Grant from Government (which as an Endowed School it could not) not exceeding, however, the sum total of the Voluntary Contributions and Boy's Pence. It is estimated that in order to maintain the School, in a state of efficiency such as will satisfy the Government Inspector, Voluntary Subscriptions will be needed to the amount of, at least, £80 a year.

If the Plan now suggested should not meet with general support, it will become necessary to constitute a School Board, with the power of rating the Parish. But as the proposal made by Gilbert Adams'

Trustees seems, if supplemented by the sum of £1000 from Tucker's Charity, to offer great advantages to the Owners and Occupiers of Land and to the Inhabitants of Beaminster generally, it would appear to be very desirable to secure the advantages thus offered, by providing annually by Voluntary Subscriptions the moderate sum required, to enable the Parish to comply with the requirements of the Elementary Education Act.

We shall feel obliged by your kindly replying to this Circular at your earliest convenience, and informing us whether you are prepared to become an Annual Subscriber towards the support of the proposed School, and, if so, in what amount?

The School at Shortmoor is, at present, without any means of support. Please send your reply to our Secretary, Mr. LEIGH, of Beaminster.

We are,

Yours faithfully,

S. S. Cox, *Chairman*.

Alfred Codd

John Hine

Peter Cox

Alfred Hine

W. J. Daniel

E. Coombs

} *Committee of
Management.*

In response to this appeal, subscriptions to the amount of about £80 were annually received, and a School Board avoided.

In 1873 Henry J. Howard was appointed the first Headmaster. He resigned the appointment in September, 1875, and left the town.

During August, 1874, the building of the Boys' Elementary School in East street was commenced. Messrs. David Hann and George Gale of Beaminster, were the builders, and J. M. Allen of Crewkerne, architect.

The Trustees of Gilbert Adams' Charity gave the site, together with the old buildings, formerly the Parish Workhouse.

A sum of £1,000 was granted from the capital funds of Tucker's Charity for the purpose of erecting a School-house* and Master's residence.

In October, 1875, William Oxley was appointed Headmaster and the boys were then transferred from Shortmoor to the new school buildings.

The school received an annual Government grant, the "Boys' pence" and voluntary contributions of about £80 a year, also a yearly donation from Gilbert Adams' Charity.

* Provides accommodation, according to the latest requirements of the Board of Education for 97 boys, and consists of School-room 46ft. long by 18ft. 6ins. wide, and Class-room 18ft. 6ins. by 12ft. 6ins.

In 1880 the Scale of Fees—weekly payments—for children attending either of the Elementary Schools, were—

1.—For children of Farmers, and Tradespeople (other than those in a *small way* of business). 1st child, 9*d.* ; 2nd child, 6*d.*

2.—For children of Dairy people, and small Tradespeople. 1st child, 6*d.* ; 2nd child, 4*d.* ; 3rd child, 2*d.*

3.—For children of Artisans and others of the same Class. Each child, 2*d.*

4.—For children of Labourers. 1st child, 2*d.* ; 2nd child, 1*d.* ; all others *free*.

"Fees to be paid weekly, on Monday morning. If not then paid, Child will be sent home for the money, and dealt with as absent until the money is brought."

In March, 1900, Mr. W. Oxley resigned his post as Headmaster, and was succeeded by Mr. E. A. Fletcher.

In 1902 both Elementary Schools were placed under control of the County Council Education Committee, and the general expenses defrayed out of the County rate, largely assisted by Government grants.

As the Beaminster Elementary School buildings (boys and girls) were not provided out of the rates, the religious teaching, the appointment of teachers, and the control of the buildings out of school hours, are in the hands of local managers, who are required to keep the buildings in repair, and effect all improvements which either the County Authority or the Board of Education may from time to time require, subject only to certain allowances for wear and tear, and for rent of teachers' residences. The managers are also required to keep all the buildings insured, and to pay the rates on the teachers' houses. The annual outlay in repairs, etc., must be raised by subscription. There are six managers of each school, chosen as follows—

	<i>Boys' School. Girls' and Infants' Schools.</i>	
The Vicar of Beaminster (ex-officio) ..	I	I
Nominated by the Governors of the Beaminster and Netherbury Grammar School ..	I	
Nominated by the Vicar and Churchwardens of Beaminster ..		I
Elected by Subscribers of 2/6 and upwards ..	2	2
Appointed by the County Council ..	I	I
Appointed by the Beaminster Parish Council	I	I
	—	—
	6	6
	—	—

The first four in each case are termed Foundation Managers.

In 1904 the County Challenge Shield, offered by the County Council Education Committee, for the highest percentage of average attendance at school throughout the whole of Dorset, was won by the Beaminster Boy's Elementary School, which headed the list with an average attendance of 98.9 per cent. The school also won the "West Dorset Shield" for the best percentage of attendance in West Dorset. Both shields were again won in 1908, with an average attendance of 108 or 98.75 per cent.

On November 1st, 1909, with the consent of the County Education Committee and the local Managers, an exchange was arranged between Mr. E. A. Fletcher, the Headmaster, and Mr. E. E. Wise, Headmaster of St. John's School, Wimborne.

Mr. Fletcher, who was a keen disciplinarian, during his nine years' residence, raised the morale of the school to a high standard, which *status* is well maintained by the present master.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

The earliest record of a private school at Beaminster in the writer's possession, is a specimen penmanship-book of a "Miss Barratt at J. Adam's Commercial Academy," dated June, 1820.

About the same date there was also a "Grammar School" in North street under the management of George Augustus Henessey and Son. A silver medal in the possession of Mr. Alfred Vie Pine of this town, bears the following inscription—"Beaminster Grammar School, Decr., 1824"; around the rim are the words "Presented to Thos Pine by Messrs. G. A. Henessey & Son."

This school was in existence in the year 1830, also an "Academy" in North street, the master of which was the Rev. Thomas Evans, the then Curate-in-Charge.

About the year 1838 William Gardner succeeded Messrs. Henessey, and became the Master and Proprietor of the School which he styled the "Beaminster Academy"; the school-house was situate in Shadrack street.

An early prospectus states—

“ Young Gentlemen are boarded and educated on the following Terms.

Board and Instruction in the English Language, Reading,	<i>Per Annum.</i>
Writing, Arithmetic, Composition and Geography ..	20 Guineas.
Parlour Boarders	35 ”
Weekly Boarders	17 ”
Day Scholars	3 ”
Greek and Latin Classics, each	4 ”
Merchants’ Accounts	2 ”
Drawing and Landsurveying, each	4 ”
Washing	2 ”
Remaining at School during the Vacation	3 ”

Music and Dancing on the usual Terms.

Vacations—Christmas and Midsummer. No Entrance.

Each young Gentleman to bring a Silver spoon, three Towels, and a Knife and Fork.”

The boys in those days were thoroughly taught the art of penmanship. A “ breaking-up ” letter dated December 3rd, 1838, concludes with the sentence “ This is a specimen of my best handwriting, and I doubt not but you will express yourself much gratified at my attempt to please you.”

In 1855 the school was known as the “ Beaminster Classical and Commercial School,” at which many boys of the town and neighbourhood received a first class education, until it was closed in 1868-9.

Mr. Gardner was a classical scholar, and also an astronomer of some repute. In 1872 he published a small volume of Poems, several being of local interest.

Other Boys’ Schools of past days were conducted by—

W. May	1822
Francis Hoare. East street	1851
J. Purslow.* North street	1856
Henry Cox. Hogshill street	1859
A. G. Begbie.† Fleet street	1860
Rev. Thomas Neave.‡ Whitcombe Road	1868
— Woodward. Tan Yard	1869

GIRLS’ SCHOOLS.

Mrs. Gifford. North street	1812
Mrs. John Warr. Hogshill street	1835

* At one time Master of Netherbury Grammar School.

† Curate of Beaminster.

‡ Congregational Minister.

Miss Ann Summers.*	Hoghill street	..	..	..	1840
Miss F. Nichols.	"Ladies' Boarding School,"	Fleet street	..	..	1840
Miss Elizabeth Day.	East street	..	..	..	1841
Misses Payne and Read.	East street	..	..	..	1845
Miss Mary Davy.†	Hoghill street	..	..	..	1846
Mrs. B. Hine.	Prout Bridge	..	..	..	1850
Miss Eliza Croker.	East street	..	..	..	1851
Mrs. Whitelegg.	Shortmoor	..	..	..	1852
Miss Susan Warr.	Fleet street	..	..	..	1854
Miss Symes.‡	"Seminary for the Education of Young Ladies."				
	Hoghill street	..	..	..	1856
Miss M. A. Warr.§	"Young Ladies' Seminary,"	Fleet street	..	..	1857
Mrs. Elizabeth Cox.	East street	..	..	..	1858
Mrs. Powley.	North street	..	..	..	1858
Mrs. Pilley.	Fleet street	..	..	..	1865
Miss Bennett.	East street	..	..	..	1871
Misses A. and M. Hallett.	Hoghill street	..	..	..	1884

* Succeeded Mrs. John Warr.

† Succeeded Miss Ann Summers.


‡ Boarding School.

§ Succeeded Miss Susan Warr. Pupils transferred to the "Beaminster and Netherbury Grammar School," 1905.

Chapter XIX.

ROYAL EVENTS. LOCAL COMMEMORATIONS.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S VISIT.

UGUST 1st, 1833, was doubtless a red-letter day for Beaminster, when as Princess Victoria (at the age of fourteen) the late Queen passed through the town with her mother, on their Western Tour.

From the *Records of the Dorset Yeomanry* we learn that—

“On the 30th July, 1833, detachments of Captain Frampton's troop assembled at the Weymouth Turnpike Gate to escort their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria to Dorchester, and further from the King's Arms Hotel, Dorchester to Maiden Newton, where a detachment of the Earl of Ilchester's troop formed the escort to Melbury.

On August 1st the Earl of Ilchester's troop escorted their Royal Highnesses from Melbury to Beaminster, and thence to Lyme.”

The following extract from a letter of Mrs. Peter Cox to her sister Miss Margaret Leigh, dated August 21st, 1833, furnishes further particulars. “I hope you saw in the papers the Loyal reception the Duchess of Kent and her Daughter met with in our little town. They were staying at Melbury and part of Lord Ilchester's troop escorted them here. Mr. Cox, my Husband, and 12 privates took them on to Lyme. At Peter's instigation, Mr. Cox* proposed to Lord Ilchester that they should not come down White Sheet into the town, but through the Tunnel, thus affording all the town a full sight of Royalty. This was acceded to, and thus has our Tunnel been honoured.

Cannon were planted on the hill, an arch surmounted by a crown thrown across the street, and every door she

* Samuel Cox (Manor House), Cornet, Dorset Yeomanry Cavalry. Date of Commission, 27th August, 1831.

passed adorned with flowers. She was received by the band playing "God save the King," and all the inhabitants from high to low, did their utmost to show them their loyalty, and the sense of the honour they felt she had conferred on our little town. The carriage passed through at a foot pace, the Princess standing and returning the salutations. The Duchess begged that her thanks might be expressed for the flattering reception they met with, and they appeared quite pleased.

My Husband was quite ecstatic and though he found following a carriage and four sufficient exertion for 12 miles, declared he would have followed her to Torquay had she needed it. They embarked in their yacht [*Emerald*] for Torquay at Lyme."

The object of conducting the Royal party from Melbury over Beaminster Down and through the Tunnel was twofold. First that the procession might pass through the centre of the town, and secondly that Princess Victoria should see Horn Hill Tunnel which had so recently been opened.*

As a marked contrast to the loyal reception in Beaminster, it is stated that, "the Royal party were very angry because at Bridport they were not received by the Mayor and Corporation, who made no demonstration whatever."

The following details have been extracted from a copy of the *Dorset County Chronicle and Somersetshire Gazette* of August 8th, 1833, now in the British Museum—

"On Thursday last the 1st inst. this town was honoured by the presence of their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent and her lovely daughter the Princess Victoria heiress presumptive to the British Throne.

The moment the inhabitants heard that their Royal Highnesses intended passing through the town on their way from Melbury House the seat of the Earl of Ilchester, to Lyme Regis, steps were immediately taken to evince their loyalty to the Throne and their affectionate attachment to their Royal Highnesses personally. Garlands of flowers, &c., were erected across the streets, one of which was particularly handsome being surmounted by a flag and having in the centre a beautifully made Crown. Every house in the line of the royal cortège was decorated with laurels, flowers, &c., and from many windows flags were suspended.

About 10 o'clock in the morning the firing of cannon and the merry peal announced that their Royal Highnesses had passed through the Russell Tunnel. Shortly afterwards the royal travellers arrived at the entrance of the town, when the band struck up the national air of "God save the King," but it was drowned in the shouts of the numerous

* See Chapter XX.

spectators whose ebullition of loyal feelings was such that a momentary stop was put to the progress of the royal visitants, and her Royal Highness the Princess Victoria arose and graciously and gracefully bowed to all around. The gentlemen present immediately formed in procession, two and two, and being followed by a flag and the band (still playing the national air) conducted their Royal Highnesses slowly through the town amidst the waving of handkerchiefs and hats, and the loud and continued huzzas from the thickly crowded streets, windows, balconies, &c. Their Royal Highnesses appeared to be highly gratified with their reception and when they got to the foreplace, another short stoppage occurred, when the Duchess took the opportunity of desiring Lieut. Digby (who commanded an escort of Lord Ilchester's troop of Yeomanry Cavalry from Melbury House) to convey to the inhabitants her feelings of gratification at the kind manner in which she and the Princess were received. Lieut. Cox of this place, with a detachment of the same troop was stationed in the foreplace and there relieved Lieut. Digby's escort. The procession then continued as before to proceed slowly to the extremity of the town, in the direction of Bridport, when the gentlemen in front divided on either side, and the royal travellers passed in the centre, accompanied by the military escort, amid the deafening cheers of the assembled multitude. Her Royal Highness the Princess Victoria stood nearly the whole period occupied in proceeding through the town, and with smiles of the utmost kindness acknowledged the homage that was so enthusiastically offered. After the departure of their Royal Highnesses, Lieut. Digby requested Giles Russell, Esq., to make her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent's wishes publicly known, which that gentleman did in a very appropriate speech, which was highly applauded. There is no instance on record of any branch of the Royal Family of England ever having visited the town before."

Extract from the *Sherborne, Dorchester and Taunton Journal*, dated August 8th, 1833—

"On Thursday we were gratified by a visit from their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria, the only instance of royal blood visiting this town in all probability for centuries past. It was ascertained that they would arrive about ten o'clock. Immense crowds were assembled in the Market-place and streets to greet their arrival: the houses in the thoroughfare were decorated with evergreens and flowers, and an arch with a crown was erected in the middle of the town. About half-past nine the cortège arrived on the Down; the carriage with the servants and baggage van came direct through a part of the town and proceeded to Bridport; the Royal carriage passed over the Down a considerable distance out of the way, in order to go through the tunnel and the main streets of the town. On their arrival at the tunnel they were saluted by the firing of cannon, planted on the hill for the purpose, the ringing of bells and a band of music; but, more than all they were greeted on their arrival in the town, through the whole of the procession, with immense cheering from the people. We were exceedingly gratified with the interesting and familiar appearance of

the young Princess, her dress was remarkably plain and neat.* Their Royal Highnesses signified, through Cornet Digby how pleased they were at the warm reception they had met with, which was communicated to the people afterwards assembled in the market-place by Giles Russell, Esq., in a neat speech, in which he referred to the blessings of a limited monarchy—one was, that the poor man had equal rights with the rich ; may this be more and more verified. They were escorted from Melbury house by a party of the Melbury Troop and at Beaminster they were relieved by another party, who escorted them to Lyme : in the town, the people were the body guard, ever the best protection of Kings and Princes."

ACCESSION OF QUEEN VICTORIA.

On June 27th, 1837, Henry Bartlett, the Town Crier, was paid five shillings "For proclaiming the Queen Alexandra Victoria and for reading the Proclamation agst vice, etc."

CORONATION OF QUEEN VICTORIA.

When Queen Victoria was crowned on June 28th, 1838, the event was celebrated in Beaminster, "by a distribution of beef and beer to upwards of four hundred poor families in the parish. Triumphal arches were erected, adorned with elegant bouquets. In the afternoon the school children paraded the streets, each carrying a nosegay, and headed by a band of music. The ladies of the town regaled them with tea and cake on Mr. Thomas Frampton's Factory green,† where all the inhabitants were in attendance. As a finale the children gathered in the Fore-place, and sang together 'God save the Queen.'

The children attending the Independent Sunday School were entertained on Mr. Porter's green in the Tan Yard. The paupers at the Workhouse were feasted with Beef, Plum Pudding, and Ale ; all the men were given a pint of beer each."

Until the advent of Bank Holidays, the anniversary of Her Majesty's Coronation was always regarded in Beaminster as a general holiday. The bells rang merry peals throughout the day and the Royal Standard waved proudly

* In consequence of the death of the Duke of Würtemberg—brother-in-law of the Duke of Kent—their Royal Highnesses were dressed in mourning.

† Yarn Barton.

in the breeze from our stately tower. It is recorded that on one such occasion (1856) "A few of the spirited young men of the town, wishing to revive the manly amusement of cricket,* determined to get up a game, they therefore hired a marquee, engaged the Yeovil band, and moreover issued cards of invitation for dinner and tea in the 'tented' field, where matches were formerly played. A goodly number of well dressed spectators were present, and we were happy to notice amongst them Peter Cox, Esq., and J. Furmedge, Esq., who dined with the cricketers, and whose support and encouragement for the revival here of this game, will, we are sure, be duly appreciated by them."

QUEEN VICTORIA'S JUBILEE.

On June 21st, 1887, the inhabitants celebrated the 50th anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession. The town was profusely decorated and illuminated for the festival, the Fore-place presented a blaze of colour, and every street was gay with triumphal arches, flags and flowers. The bells rang forth merry peals, and at 11 a.m. a long procession was marshalled in the Fore-place. Proceeding to the parish church—where a short special service was held—the procession moved off in the following order—Ancient Order of Foresters, with Robin Hood, Little John, Will Scarlet, Friar Tuck and their "merrie men" bearing their flags and emblems; then followed the Independent Order of Oddfellows with Faith, Hope and Charity preceded by the banner of the Society. Next came the Beaminster Brass Band (Bandmaster Geo. Swaffield) and a large and representative gathering of townspeople both old and young. In the rear of the procession marched the

* It is not now known when a Cricket Club was first established in Beaminster. About the year 1845 Capt. Steele, then residing at "The Elms," was captain of the club.

At that date "Long-ground," at Holly Moor, was used as the cricket field. After a few years the club seems to have languished but it was revived in 1866, the same ground being used. In 1869 a pitch was laid down and a pavilion erected in a field on the Tunnel road which is still used for practice and matches.

About the year 1870 Capt. G. N. Thomas of "Hatchlands," Netherbury, was appointed captain of the club. He was a good bat and a very fast bowler and succeeded in raising in a marked degree the standard of local cricket.

For many years the Rev. P. M. Compton, Rector of Mapperton, took great interest in the club's welfare and was one of its most enthusiastic supporters.

During recent years the Beaminster Cricket Club has passed through many vicissitudes and unfortunately at present it cannot be said to be in a flourishing state.

few remaining members of the old Beaminster Friendly Society, carrying their club sticks, and tattered flags, beneath the grand old banner walked a fine old English gentleman—Mr. Peter Cox—one of the Club's oldest officers.

After the service the procession re-formed and proceeded to the Manor Park, where a dinner was provided in a large marquee. The Rev. Canon Codd (Vicar) occupied the chair and the Rev. U. B. Randall (Congregational Minister) the Vice-chair. Athletic sports occupied the afternoon, and at 5 o'clock about a thousand women and children sat down to a substantial tea. During the evening Jubilee hymns were sung, prizes for the sports distributed by Mrs. Cox, and dancing indulged in until dusk, when a display of fireworks, and illumination of the grounds and trees, terminated the proceedings in the Park. Many houses in the town remained brilliantly illuminated until midnight.

Mention should be made of the beacon fires,* which on this occasion blazed from the heights of Dorset, in common with every other county in the kingdom. Signal rockets were fired at 10 o'clock and immediately a chain of fires linked our county from end to end. On many previous occasions have beacon fires lighted up our hills; they were in olden times what the telegraph is to-day, and were in use in a variety of forms from the earliest period to the end of the nineteenth century.

PROGRAMME OF THE DAY.

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 10.30 a.m. | Meeting of Friendly Societies at their respective Lodges. |
| 11 a.m. | Marshall of Procession in the Market Square consisting of the old Beaminster Friendly Society, Oddfellows and Foresters, in full Costume, with Flags and Banners, Inhabitants of the Town, accompanied by the Beaminster Brass Band. Marshalls—Messrs. J. L. Kitson and J. Andrews. |
| 11.30 a.m. | Short Special Service at the Parish Church. |
| 12.30 p.m. | Perambulation of the Procession through the streets of the Town. |
| 1 p.m. | Dinner in the Manor Park. |
| 3 p.m. | Athletic Sports. |
| 5 p.m. | Tea in a Marquee. |
| 6 p.m. | Singing of Jubilee Hymns. |

* The towers of churches were frequently used for beacon fires, and on many of them may still be seen the remains of the beacon turret.

- 6.30 p.m. Distribution of Prizes for Athletic Sports by Mrs. Cox.
 6.30 p.m. Dancing to commence.
 9.30 p.m. Display of Fireworks and Illumination of the Trees and
 Grounds.

E. ALLEN
 R. TOLEMAN } *Hon. Secs.*

The expenses of the day's festivities, which were defrayed by public subscription, amounted to £155.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S DIAMOND JUBILEE.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, Tuesday, June 22nd, 1897, was another event long to be remembered by Beaminsterians. After much discussion the appointed Committee having considered many proposed schemes, at last decided to erect, as a memorial of the event, a Chemical Laboratory and Workshop at the Beaminster and Netherbury Grammar School.

The festivities of the day were carried out in "Queen's weather" with great enthusiasm, and the town was freely decorated with flags and evergreen arches.

During the morning a procession was formed, consisting of the Volunteers, under command of Lieut. H. L. Kitson, members of the "Hearts of Oak" Benefit Society, members of the Ancient Order of Foresters "Court Pride," members of the "Loyal Friendship" Lodge of Oddfellows, with flags and banners, and the emblems of their respective Orders; Inhabitants of the Town and Children of the Parish walking four abreast, headed by the Beaminster Brass Band, preceded by Mr. James Andrews,* as a mounted Marshall.

The procession proceeded through the principal streets of the town to the Fore-place, where a ring was formed and a large assembly sang together the National Anthem. The march was then continued to the Manor Park, where a public dinner took place, presided over by the Rev. A. A. Leonard (Vicar), the vice-chair being taken by the Rev. F. Coram (Congregational Minister).

* It is an interesting fact that Mr. Andrews—an honoured townsman who died in November, 1913, aged 92—in 1834 mounted on a pony marched with his father's regiment, the 4th Dragoon Guards, from Bristol, where they had just landed from Ireland, to fresh quarters at Brighton—a long journey for a lad in those days. At Brighton, Mr. Andrews met and saluted William IV, which salutation was acknowledged by the King.

At 2.30 about 500 of the younger children of the parish assembled at the National Schoolroom and marched through the town, accompanied by the Band, to the Park. The procession provided a pretty sight, the girls wearing light summer costumes, with sashes of red, white and blue, and carrying flags and banners. At 4.30 they all partook of tea, and the remainder of the day was occupied with sports and dancing.

At dusk a display of fireworks and illumination of the lake and grounds terminated a very happy day. Thus once again did Beaminster shew its loyalty to the Queen, and added another red-letter day to its history. Beacon fires once more blazed on the hills around, and from Lewesdon about one hundred bonfires were counted.

The programme of the day was almost identical with that of June 21st, 1887. The Committee's Hon. Secretaries were Messrs. E. Allen and J. Winter.

DEATH OF QUEEN VICTORIA.

On January 22nd, 1901, at 6.30 p.m. "Victoria the Good" died at Osborne House, Isle of Wight. The sad news was telegraphed to Beaminster the same evening, and at 9 p.m. the tenor bell in the tower was tolled every minute for an hour.

Next morning the Royal Standard was hoisted at half-mast on the church tower and so continued to fly until the day of the funeral. Mourning shutters were also affixed to the principal shops in the town.

On the day of interment—February 2nd—business was entirely suspended, and at noon a Memorial Service was held at the parish church, which was filled to its utmost capacity.

At 11.30 the local Volunteers assembled in the Fore-place, and headed by the band of the detachment marched to the church, no music was however played, the instruments being carried and drums draped with black. The Non-Commissioned Officers present were Sergeant W. B. Newman, Sergeant A. Hann, Band-Sergeant J. Trump and Corporal Greenham; the muster numbered 28 Volunteers,* 16 band, and 19 old members of the Company.

* Capt. H. L. Kitson and ten men of the Beaminster Detachment of the Dorset Volunteer Service Company were away on active service in South Africa.

The Special Service appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury was conducted by the Vicar (Rev. A. A. Leonard) assisted by the Rev. R. Rigdon (Acting Curate). Greig's *Funeral March* was played by the Organist (Mr. A. Stone) and Chopin's *Funeral March* at the close of the service. Muffled peals were rung during the day, and parts of the church were draped with black.

On Sunday, February 3rd, Memorial Services were also held at the Congregational and Wesleyan Chapels, the pulpits being draped with black cloth as on the occasion of the death of the Prince Consort.* At the former place of worship the Pastor (Rev. J. W. Pointer) conducted an impressive service, and at the close the Organist (Mr. H. F. Guppy) played the *Dead March in Saul*.

MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCE OF WALES.

On Tuesday, March 10th, 1863, Albert Edward, Prince of Wales was married to Princess Alexandra of Denmark. The festivities in Beaminster were somewhat marred by a few of the inhabitants being opposed to any organized demonstration, on account of the wedding taking place during the season of Lent. Harmony did not for once reign in the town and it was a divided day.

At first it was decided to provide a dinner for all the old men of the parish, and a tea for the old women, the age limit being regulated by the amount of money subscribed. It was also proposed to give a *united* tea to all the children attending the different Sunday Schools, but owing to considerable opposition the scheme was wrecked.

At the last moment—March 6th—a public meeting was held in the Town Hall, when it was finally settled that some sort of a public dinner and tea should take place on the Wedding Day. At a subsequent gathering of the subscribers to the fund a general committee was appointed and the arrangements were rescued from the unseemly partizanship which had threatened to abuse them.

The local press in recording the festivities says—

“We will pass aside the disagreements and unpleasantness which were evoked at the outset, and narrate the proceedings of the eventful day. Merry peals were rung from the church bells; arches spanned

* December 14th, 1861.

the streets and flags and loyal mottoes were displayed from various houses. A subscription list was started, about £50 collected, and a committee appointed to distribute the same. About 300 persons over the age of 50 received tickets which enabled them to purchase 3lbs. of beef each, 20zs. of tea and 40zs. of sugar. In the morning the children of the Church Sunday School walked in procession to the Church, carrying flags and banners, headed by a brass band; after the service they were marched to the Fore-place, where they sang the National Anthem, and then dismissed to their homes. A certain sum out of the money collected was given to the managers of the Sunday Schools of the different denominations—Church, Independent and Wesleyan—that they might provide a tea for the children, in their respective school-rooms.*

In addition to these efforts of the general committee, the working men, with the assistance of a number of gentlemen in the town resolved on a demonstration of loyalty of their own, and about £12 was collected for that purpose. After having marched in procession through the various streets with banners, music and appropriate devices, about 120 dined together in the Town Hall at 2 p.m., presided over by Dr. Gilbert. The charge made was one shilling each.

At 5 o'clock a tea was provided in the same room for the wives and daughters of the working men, to which they were admitted on payment of three-pence each; the arrangements were superintended by a number of ladies.

During the day several barrels of cider were placed in the Fore-place, and all who chose could help themselves to it.

During the evening a huge bonfire, kindled in the centre of the town, spread its meteor flag aloft above the tops of the houses. A ball also took place at the White Hart Hotel Assembly-room.

The inmates of the Union House were not forgotten; the guardians with their usual kindness treated them with beef, pudding, strong beer, tea, tobacco and snuff to their hearts content."

CORONATION OF KING EDWARD VII.

Thursday, June 26th, 1902, was the day appointed for the Coronation of the King, but on the eve of the event a terrible shock fell on the Empire, and upon the whole world, by the alarming news that the King was ill, consequently the Coronation was indefinitely postponed.

The Committee that had been appointed to carry out the arrangements in Beaminster, were placed in a very difficult position. On Tuesday evening they met and decided to abandon all festivities, but early next day a telegram was received, intimating that it was the King's wish that the rejoicings in country districts should take place as arranged. It was therefore resolved to

* The children attending the Wesleyan Sunday School had their tea in a building in Fleet street, lent by Mr. Charles Lawrence.

carry out part of the programme. Business was suspended both on Thursday and Friday, and on the former day a service was held in the Parish Church during the morning which was largely attended. At one o'clock a public dinner took place in the Manor Park, and about three hundred people were present. The Rev. A. A. Leonard (Vicar) occupied the chair and the Rev. J. W. Pointer (Congregational Minister) the vice-chair. During the afternoon there were athletic sports, and at 4 o'clock several hundred women and children partook of a substantial tea. In the evening dancing was indulged in to the music of the Beaminster Brass Band. At dusk the assembly in the park heartily joined in singing "God save the King."

The town was not in any way decorated and an air of sadness seemed to pervade the whole day's proceedings.

The Committee originally intended to carry out the following programme, towards which £74* were subscribed.

6 a.m.	Ringling of Parish Church Bells.
10.30 a.m.	Coronation Service at the Parish Church.
11.30 a.m.	Procession of Inhabitants and Members of the Friendly Societies, accompanied by the Beaminster Band.
1 p.m.	Public Dinner in the Manor Park.
2.30 p.m.	Procession of Children,† between 5 and 15 years of age.
3 p.m.	Athletic Sports.
4 p.m.	Children's Tea.
4.30 p.m.	Free Tea for all Females over 15 years.
5.30 p.m.	Action Songs by the Children.
6 p.m.	Dancing.
9.15 p.m.	Torchlight Procession from the Park to the Bonfire.
10 p.m.	Bonfire on Sea Mark Hill.

T. BROWN, *Hon. Sec.*

After days and weeks of anxious waiting, King Edward VII was at last crowned on Saturday, August 9th, at Westminster Abbey amid scenes of dazzling splendour.

At Beaminster, the bells rang forth merry peals, and the town was profusely decorated. The day however was not observed here as a general holiday, as the Committee had decided to carry out the remainder of their programme on the following Wednesday, early closing day; the afternoon however was very stormy, and nothing could be done until the evening when the town was bril-

* A sum of £6 was distributed in doles to the indigent poor.

† Every child in the parish between the age of three and fifteen years received a commemoration medal.

liantly illuminated. At 8 o'clock a procession of flaming torches, with a number of decorated cycles headed by the Band, proceeded from the Manor Park to a field at Knowle, where a huge bonfire was set alight, which terminated the day's proceedings.

The following Address was sent to the King.

"To His Most Gracious Majesty King Edward VII Emperor of India and of Britain beyond the Seas.

We, your Majesty's most Loyal and Devoted Subjects, Inhabitants of the Town of Beaminster, Dorset, desire to offer your Majesty our heartiest Congratulations on your recovery from a severe and painful illness, and also on the occasion of the Coronation of your Majesty, together with that of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Alexandra, and to express the earnest hope that your Majesties may long be spared to enjoy health and happiness, and that the blessing of Almighty God may continually rest upon you, and the Members of your Royal Family.

Signed on behalf of the Inhabitants,

HENRY CROCKER,

Chairman of the Coronation Committee.

August 13th, 1902."

As a permanent memorial of the Coronation, the Institute and Public Hall were built.

DEATH OF KING EDWARD VII.

On the morning of May 7th, 1910, the tolling of the tenor bell followed by a muffled peal proclaimed to the people of Beaminster the death of "Edward the Peacemaker."

The funeral of the King took place on Friday, May 20th. Business in the town was entirely suspended during the whole day. The Institute closed its doors from 10 o'clock until 3 p.m., and flags flew at half-mast on the Tower, and from many private poles. Muffled peals were rung on the bells, and at half-past one a "Special Service in Commemoration of His late Majesty King Edward VII of Blessed and Glorious Memory" was held at the Parish Church. The building was crowded with a congregation estimated to number at least 850 persons, including fifty members of the Beaminster and Netherbury Detachment "A" Company 4th Batt. Dorset Regiment, under command of Captain H. L. Kitson.

The officiating clergy were the Revs. A. A. Leonard (Vicar), R. B. Goodden (Curate) and A. C. H. Earle (Rector of Mapperton).

Prior to the service Mr. T. Reginald Pine (Organist) played Mendelssohn's *Funeral March*, also Chopin's *Marche Funèbre*, and at the close the *Dead March in Saul*.

On the Sunday previous to the interment a Memorial Service was conducted by the Rev. J. C. Angel in the Congregational Chapel. The Pastor founded his sermon on the text "Among many nations, there was no king like him." The *Dead March* was played by the Organist, Mr. H. F. Guppy, at the close.

CORONATION OF KING GEORGE V.

Thursday, June 22nd, 1911, was the date appointed for the Coronation of King George V and Queen Mary. On this occasion the parish of Mapperton joined with Beaminster in celebrating the joyous event. Once again the town was freely decorated, and artistic arches—for which prizes were awarded—spanned the streets.

At 9.45 a Coronation Service was held at the Parish Church, after which a procession, arranged under the direction of Chief Marshal Supt. A. E. King, passed through the principal streets to the Manor Park. Members of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, Ancient Order of Foresters and of the National Deposit Friendly Societies, each carrying their flags, banners, and other emblems, together with many unattached inhabitants of the town, historic personages on horseback, and costumed groups mounted on cars and on foot, made up a lengthy cavalcade, headed by the Beaminster Brass Band.

At 12.45 a public luncheon was largely attended in the Manor Park presided over by the Rev. A. A. Leonard (Vicar) with the Revs. J. C. Angel (Congregational Minister) and A. C. H. Earle (Rector of Mapperton) in the vice-chairs.

During the afternoon a programme of athletic sports was carried through, and at 2 p.m. children between the ages of five and fifteen (wearing Coronation medals) assembled in the Fore-place, and led by the Band and the Beaminster Boy Scouts, marched to the park. At 4 o'clock

a free tea was given to all children and females resident in the parishes of Beaminster and Mapperton.

Dancing and other amusements occupied the time until dusk, when there was a display of fireworks and coloured lights. At 10 o'clock a large bonfire was lit on Storridge Hill forming a link in the long chain of fires which blazed throughout the land. So ended another notable day in the annals of the loyal town.

Arrangements for carrying out the demonstration were made by a large and representative committee under the direction of Mr. H. Crocker, Chairman, and Mr. R. C. Legge, Hon. Secretary.

A loyal and dutiful Address sent to the King and Queen by the Inhabitants was duly acknowledged by the Home Secretary.

The sum of £65 was subscribed towards defraying the expenses of the day's festivities.

As a memorial of the event two large photogravures of their Majesties the King and Queen, framed in fumed oak, were placed in the Public Hall. Each picture bears a brass plate inscribed "To commemorate the Coronation of King George and Queen Mary, June 23rd, 1911."

Chapter XX.

HORN HILL TUNNEL.



ABOUT a mile and a half from the town on the Crewkerne road is a tunnel through Horn Hill. Inscribed on stone tablets over each entrance is—

The public are principally
indebted for the erection of this

TUNNEL

to the zealous exertions of
GILES RUSSELL of Beaminster, Gent.
Begun August, 1831. Finished June, 1832.
M. Lane,* Civil Engineer.

Built entirely of bricks with Ham stone facings the Tunnel itself is 115 yards long, and 20 feet wide; length of south approach 57 feet, length of north approach 50½ feet, width of south approach 26½ feet, width of north approach 24 feet.

The following advertisement appeared in the *Dorset County Chronicle and Somerset Gazette* of November 12th, 1829—

“The Second District of the Bridport Turnpike Roads, in the County of Dorset. Notice is hereby given, that application is intended to be made to Parliament in the next Session, for an Act to continue the term, and to alter, amend, and enlarge the powers and provisions of an Act passed in the Fifty-ninth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, intituled *An Act for repairing, widening, improving and maintaining the several Roads leading to and from the Town of Bridport aforesaid, and for making a new Line of Road to communicate with the same*, so far as the said Act relates to the said Roads called the Second District, commencing at the North end of the New Meeting

* A pupil of Sir Isambard Brunel, who assisted the great engineer in the construction of the Thames Tunnel.



HORN HILL TUNNEL.

South View.

House, in the Lane called Stake Lane* situate in Bridport aforesaid, and leading from thence to Beaminster in the same County and from the North Turnpike Gate, at the South End of the Town of Beaminster aforesaid to the entrance into the late Common called Beaminster Wood, otherwise Wood Common and to Lenham's Water, in the said Parish of Beaminster, and from the South End of the said late Common called Beaminster Wood, otherwise Wood Common, in the Parish of Beaminster aforesaid, through part of the said Parish of Beaminster and also the Parishes of Broadwindsor and Mosterton, in the said County of Dorset, to the Rivulet or Lake called Cole Brook Water, otherwise Misterton Water.

And that it is intended to apply for Powers in the said Act, for making and constructing a Tunnel or Archway for Carriages, Horses and Persons travelling on foot, at or near a place called Horn Hill, within the Parishes or Tithings of Beaminster, Broadwindsor and Dibberford aforesaid, or some or one of them in part of the said Line of Road from Beaminster to Cole Brook Water, or Misterton Water aforesaid ; and that it is also intended to abandon and discontinue certain parts of the said Turnpike Road, and divert and improve certain parts of the same, and for that purpose to apply for Powers to take certain Lands and Hereditaments, lying within the several Parishes, Townships, Hamlets and Places before mentioned

THOMAS RUSSELL

Solicitor to the Trustees of the said Second District of Roads."

An Act of Parliament having been obtained, the ceremony of cutting the first sod was performed on Monday, April 12th, 1830. The following account of the proceedings appeared in the *Western Flying Post, Sherborne and Yeovil Mercury* of April 19th—

" BEAMINSTER.—An easier communication from this place into Somersetshire has long been contemplated, and in the furtherance of this most desirable object none have been more earnest and solicitous in their endeavours to obtain subscribers, than G. Russell, Esq. ; he also gratuitously devoted his time and professional skill in obtaining an Act of Parliament, for the new line of road over Hornhill and for cutting a tunnel through the same. This great improvement met the approbation and encouragement of many eminent and wealthy gentlemen, who eagerly came forward to assist in so laudable a design. A sufficient sum having been advanced, it was agreed to commence the work on Easter Monday. About 12 o'clock, a great number of gentlemen and most respectable tradesmen met near the market-house, and forming themselves into pairs, proceeded to the hill with banners flying, and a band of music ; the first flag having the word 'Emulation' on it, was carried by Mr. Waygood, whose zeal in the cause has always been conspicuous. On arriving at the proposed spot, the barrows and the various other implements were arranged, and the usual ceremony on these occasions being over, G. Russell, Esq., addressed the party

* Now Barrack Street.

assembled in a neat and most impressive speech, in which he emphatically exemplified the benefits that would accrue to the different towns in the neighbourhood, but more particularly to Beaminster and its environs. A quantity of cider was then given to the workmen and the crowd present, the band playing 'God save the King'; after which they returned to the town in procession, the labourers carrying their tools, &c. A select party dined at the White Hart Inn: after the cloth was removed, loyal and other appropriate toasts were drunk. At six o'clock it was announced that more cider was to be given away in the market-place, when G. Cox, Esq., with his usual kindness, condescended to superintend its distribution. Nothing could exceed the order observed by the participators: they acted as though they felt the realization of those hopes held out to them in the morning: their countenances seemed to brighten at the prospect of earning their own bread, instead of being degraded paupers. The gentlemen retired to the inn and spent the evening with the harmony worthy of such an undertaking."

From the first milestone an entirely new road was constructed to and through the Tunnel and beyond, as will be seen from the accompanying plan, which is a reproduction of the original. The track of the old road east of the present roadway may still be traced.

A few yards south of the tunnel entrance is a rude cross painted on a stone set in the low wall which supports the bank. This symbol marks the traditional site of a fatal accident to a workman engaged in constructing the new roadway. In a parish book is the following entry—

" 1832, June. Expenses at the New Inn on an Inquest taken on Wm. Applin who was killed by a Quantity of Earth falling on him in widening the Road under Hornhill, this side of the Tunnel—13/4 "

Prior to the opening ceremony of the tunnel, an official programme of the proceedings was printed and distributed in the town and neighbourhood, of which a facsimile faces page 406. An account of the rejoicings which took place on the eventful day has been extracted verbatim from the *Dorset County Chronicle* of July 5th, 1832.

OPENING OF HORN HILL TUNNEL.

Amongst the many road improvements which we have lately been called upon to record as monuments of the enterprize, the zeal, and the industry of the "men of the West," none has surpassed in point either of utility or of workmanship, the new road and Tunnel which have



PLAN OF THE NEW ROAD THROUGH HORN HILL.
1831.

lately been excavated through Horn Hill near Beaminster. That tremendous declivity has hitherto been an effectual barrier to all facility of communication between the lower portion of Dorset and a considerable district of Somerset. Commercial intercourse, especially between Bridport Harbour and Somersetshire, has here met with a difficulty which long seemed utterly insurmountable; and it has remained for some individuals of the present day, in the exercise of British skill, activity, and perseverance, and backed by that public encouragement, which, we trust, will never be wanting, in any attempt having for its object the general good, to plan and carry forward to completion, a work which has entirely obviated this inconvenience. To Giles Russell, Esq., of Beaminster, is due the merit of having first brought under public notice, a plan for excavating a Tunnel through Horn Hill, and thus effecting a passage through the very heart of the difficulty. Objections were freely urged against the measure, but the zeal and determination of Mr. Russell, in his conviction that the proposal was feasible and facile of accomplishment, and his persevering advocacy succeeded in overthrowing the objections. Assisted by the co-operation of S. Cox, Esq., whose exertions were no less meritorious, and of several other gentlemen of the neighbourhood, Mr. R. was enabled to see the commencement of the work which has now been so happily completed. The roads approaching the Tunnel were commenced nearly two years since, but excavations for the tunnel itself were not begun until August, 1831: and since that period the whole passage has been excavated, forming a noble archway of brickwork 20 feet high, to the extent of 115 yards, and completed in a manner which does infinite credit to the surveyor Mr. R. Martin, and the architect Mr. M. Lane. By effecting this stupendous work, an easy mode of communication has been effected for the inhabitants of Beaminster, Bridport and all places in the vicinity of those towns, with Crewkerne and the interior of Somersetshire. Commerce will be greatly benefitted by the measure, as the conveyance of heavy goods, timber, &c., will be rendered at much lower rates; the kind feelings of humanity are promoted, as the steepness of the hill previously was most toilsome and painful to horses; and the general convenience of the public is vastly augmented. The distance also is decreased upwards of a mile.

The day fixed for opening this undertaking was Friday last; and the appearance of the town of Beaminster, at an early hour, betokened that the day was to be regarded throughout as a holiday. There was a general cessation from work; the shops were almost all closed; flags were displayed on the tower, and at various parts of the town; boughs of laurel and other evergreens, tastefully intermingled with garlands of flowers, were seen hanging at different houses; and at eight o'clock a salute of 21 guns from a battery stationed on the summit of Horn Hill, and under the command of George Cox, Esq., "gave busy note of preparation" for the festivities that were shortly to commence. Parties from Bridport, Crewkerne, Chard, Dorchester, and all the neighbouring places, poured rapidly into the town, which, long before the hour appointed for the procession, exhibited an appearance of gaiety and bustle never before witnessed in its streets. At 10 o'clock, the various portions of the procession began to form in the Market-place with banners and the Beaminster and Bridport bands of music. The procession soon afterwards started for the tunnel in the following order, having been

arranged by the gentlemen who were appointed a committee of Management—

Banner.

Band.

The Bridport and Taunton Mail, with the Clerk to the Commissioners, the Civil Engineer (Mr. M. Lane), and the Surveyor (Mr. A. Martin).

The Patron of the undertaking (G. Russell, Esq.), and the Treasurer of the Trust (S. Cox, Esq.), in an open Carriage, drawn by four horses.

Commissioners of the Trust, accompanied by other Gentlemen on Horseback, two and two, forming a line of upwards of One Hundred.

Ladies and Gentlemen, in about sixty carriages, of all descriptions, forming a long and brilliant train.

Two Flags—the one bearing the Royal Arms—the other inscribed “God Save the King.”

About One Hundred Gentlemen (visitors) on foot, two and two.

Gentlemen (inhabitants of Beaminster) on foot, two and two.

Gentlemen on horseback, about 200, two and two.

Banner, bearing the motto “Pro Bono Publico.”

Band.

The workmen of the different tradesmen in any way employed on the Tunnel, each bearing some instrument emblematic of his calling : masons, carpenters, smiths, braziers, wheelwrights, &c.

Amongst the most conspicuous were the men of Messrs. Warr, and other builders, who had curled shavings depending from their hats, and wore belts of the same materials.

The braziers of Mr. Waygood bore a banner, on which were painted an emblematic device, and an appropriate motto.

The Labourers employed in excavating the tunnel, carrying shovels and pickaxes.

The day was extremely propitious, which added greatly to enliven the cheering scene ; and as the procession passed through the town, the persons forming it were encouraged and saluted by the ladies waving handkerchiefs from the various windows. On the way to the Tunnel several triumphal arches were erected, and tastefully hung with festoons of flowers and evergreens. On arriving within view of the Tunnel another salute of 21 guns was fired from the battery.

The procession entered the Tunnel amidst the most enthusiastic cheers on all sides, the band playing “God Save the King.” At this time we calculate that not less than nine thousand persons were present. The procession itself was nearly half a mile in length, and the sides of the road and the hill were covered by an immense mass of spectators. The procession went forward over the whole of the new line of road, and on reaching Whettley Cross, was welcomed by another salute from the battery. Returning by the same route the Tunnel was repassed, and the exit of the last of the procession was announced by a final salute of guns. About half-past twelve the whole of the procession re-entered the town, and dispersed at the market-place, after giving three hearty cheers for the success of the Tunnel. The whole was conducted in the most orderly and well-arranged manner ; and, notwithstanding the length of the train there was not the slightest confusion. Winding along the road leading to the Tunnel, the procession, with its banners floating in the breeze, the multitude of carriages, decked with so profuse a display

Order of Procession
 TO BE OBSERVED AT THE OPENING OF
HORN HILL
TUNNEL,
Near Beaminster, Dorset,
29th JUNE, 1832.

FLAG BEARER.

B A N D.

Mall Coach, with the Clerk to the Commissioners, Civil Engineer, and Surveyors.

The Patron of the undertaking, and the **Treasurer** of the Trust in an open Carriage, drawn by Four Horses.

Commissioners of the Trust on Horseback,..... Two and two.

Gentlemen Visitors on Foot, Ditto.

Ditto Inhabitants of Beaminster, Ditto,..... Ditto.

FLAG BEARER.

Ladies and Gentlemen in Carriages.

Ditto on Horseback, Two and two.

FLAG BEARER.

B A N D.

Labourers carrying their Working Tools, Two and two.

The PROCESSION will commence forming, in the Market-place, of the Town of Beaminster, by 10 o'Clock in the Morning, and proceed from thence through the TUNNEL, to the extremity of the New Line of Road; and return in the same order.

All Persons wishing to take a part in the Procession, are particularly requested to be early in their attendance.

The Committee for conducting the Procession, and the other business of the Day, will be distinguished by a bit of Blue Ribbon tied round the left arm.

Sherring, Printer, Bookseller and Stationer, Beaminster.

OPENING OF HORN HILL TUNNEL.

Fac-simile of Programme.

of elegance, beauty, and fashion, the number of horsemen, pedestrians, and artisans, formed altogether one of the most enlivening spectacles ever witnessed in this part of the county.

The labourers employed on the tunnel afterwards proceeded to regale themselves, having each been paid the price of a day's work, and gratified with an additional donation of 2s. 6d. each. The workmen of the various tradesmen, and at the factories, were likewise regaled by their masters.

Dinners were provided at nearly all the Inns in the town; and at the head table at the White Hart Inn about 70 persons sat down to a very superior dinner, served up by Mr. Hearn, with great taste and liberality.

Samuel Cox, Esq., presided, and tended most materially by his kindness, attention, urbanity, and good humour, to the happiness of the party. He was supported on his right by G. Russell, Esq., and on his left by the Rev. R. Cox. Mr. Coombs officiated as vice-president.

The cloth having been removed, the Chairman rose and proposed the health of "The King," which was drank with the most enthusiastic applause, and with four times four.

"The Queen and Royal Family," also drank with four times four, amidst long-continued cheering.

The Chairman then rose—"Gentlemen, we are met to celebrate the completion of a great—I may say, a magnificent work. It is not going too far, perhaps, to say that it is a work which would be worthy of those ancient Romans, who erected aqueducts which even now excite admiration and wonder: or of Napoleon Buonaparte, who made the stupendous road over the Simplon. For a long time, we were, as it were, cut off from connection with a great part of Somerset, because no communication could be effected in that direction, unless with great difficulty. By the completion of this work, however, the opening of which we are now assembled to celebrate, that difficulty, so long thought insurmountable, has been overcome. A free passage is granted to us; commerce will be greatly assisted by it; the traffic of our neighbourhood will be increased; and great convenience will ensue to the public in general. I am sure, gentlemen, that you will readily join me in doing due honour to such a work, and therefore, propose 'Success to the Tunnel,' with three times three." The toast was drank with deafening cheers. The Chairman then said—"Gentlemen, I must now propose another toast, which will not need any eulogium from me, to recommend it to your kindness, though I cannot but regret that it has not fallen to more able hands to propose it to you. I propose the health of a man who has had the strength of mind to conceive and the heart to bring forward and to prosecute towards its consummation, the great work, which we have this day completed. Had it not been for the exertions and perseverance of Mr. Giles Russell (tremendous cheers), this work in all probability, would never have been undertaken; or, if undertaken, had it not been for zeal and determination such as has been displayed by him, it could not have been brought to so happy a conclusion. It has been said in a page of great authority, that some men there are who die as though they had never been, whilst others when they perish, leave a name behind them. The gentleman of whom I speak is of the latter class; for when his days are completed—and late may that be—his name will still survive in the grateful recollections of that posterity who will derive so much benefit from his exertions. That

tunnel, with his other good deeds, will enrol his name in the annals of Fame: and I am sure that you will all cordially join me in a wish that his life may be extended longer than we shall have time to tell his years; and may his name be remembered till the day when that hill, which has been the scene of his zeal for the public good, shall dissolve, and 'leave not a wreck behind.' I give you, gentlemen, the health of Mr. Giles Russell." The toast was drank with three times three, and followed with the most enthusiastic expressions of applause.

G. Russell, Esq., in returning thanks, said he thought himself more than fortunate in having lived so long as to meet so respectable a company on such an occasion as that one which they were then met to celebrate. The public wish had been long and ardently expressed, but never hitherto realized, that the barrier at Horn Hill—a barrier, which cut off Bridport and Beaminster from the interior of Somerset—could be overcome; and it was therefore with feelings of no common pleasure that he now joined them in celebrating the completion of their common efforts to subdue the difficulty. It was at all times a difficult task to speak of one's self; and in the present instance, the very flattering manner in which they had honoured him, rendered the task one of peculiar delicacy to him, lest he should overleap the bounds of discretion. In returning them his heartfelt thanks, however, for that honourable compliment which their kindness had paid him—a kindness, far beyond any deserts of his—(no, no)—he might be allowed, perhaps, to say, that in undertaking and proceeding towards completion with this beneficial work, he was guided by upright, honourable, and public motives (cheers), and no personal idea, no thought of filthy lucre had place in his mind. But his exertions, however pure in their origin, and however ardent and zealous in execution, would, he felt, have been utterly useless had he not been supported by public spirit and the public purse. He was so supported, he was encouraged by public spirit, and liberally assisted by pecuniary help, and he trusted he should not give offence to any man, but he considered it as merely performing an act of justice due to two individuals then present, by distinguishing them in their support of this cause above all others. He alluded to their worthy chairman, and his brother, Mr. Peter Cox (cheers). There were times when the undertaking was placed in great difficulties, when the resources were failing, and when some would have been inclined to give it up in despair. But at such times these gentlemen came to his aid, encouraged him by their assistance, and renewed his drooping spirits. If he uttered a word in their praise, it was not his simple tribute alone, but would be echoed by the attestation given to their merits by all good and honourable men (applause). He should, however, say that notwithstanding the difficulties which continually appeared to be surmounted, he never actually despaired: he relied upon the good of his cause; he had a presentiment that as his motives were good and honourable, so would success ultimately attend his exertions. He was conductor of the good ship Hope; he was fortunate enough to procure the services of two able pilots, Lane and Williams; and he had selected a brave, bold crew from the service of the Messrs. Cox; and by their united exertions, he had been enabled to bring his vessel into safe anchorage in the harbour of accomplishment; and he now consigned his cargo of the Tunnel, and all its benefits, to the public—to the world; and at the same time he surrendered all Horn Hills to the demons of despair (cheers).

For the honour which they had done him, he assured them that he felt it deeply, and though his merits were slender, yet his gratitude was strong indeed. He thanked them from his heart, and hoped they would derive all the benefits that had been anticipated from the new communication between Bridport Harbour and Somersetshire.

The Chairman, in proposing the health of the civil engineer (Mr. Michael Lane), paid a tribute to the abilities and exertions of that gentleman in prosecuting the work. To those who had not heard of the professional talent of Mr. Lane, he would say "go to the Horn Hill Tunnel" and when there he would say to them, as was inscribed in the monument erected to the memory of the Architect of St. Paul's Cathedral "Circumspice."—The toast was drank with three times three.

G. Russell, Esq., then rose and said, that if at any time any body of men had a peculiar duty to perform, to his mind such a duty paramountly devolved upon them on the present occasion, to drink the health of their worthy president (loud cheering).

Every man in the room was indebted to him not only for the pleasure which had attended their meeting that day, but also mainly for the occasion which they met to celebrate. Mr. Cox was far above all praise he (Mr. R.) could bestow on him, but known as that gentleman was to all present there was, perhaps, the less to regret in his (Mr. R.'s) inability to bestow a due eulogium. Mr. Cox was also above the praise due to most other men, because to conquer prejudices, particularly existing in one's own mind, is one of the most difficult of all sciences. That gentleman had once thought that his (Mr. R.'s) efforts were not feasible, and would therefore be unavailing; but having since been convinced of their feasibility, and the benefits which would accrue to the community from their completion, he had cordially concurred, and by his assistance, greatly contributed to the successful termination of the undertaking. He was sure that he need not say a word to induce them to drink the toast in an enthusiastic manner. The toast was then drank with four times four; and when the loud and long continued cheering which followed it had somewhat subsided, the Chairman rose—He felt grateful—deeply grateful to Mr. Russell and the other gentlemen for the honour they had so kindly done him. He was free to confess that in the outset of this business, he had seen difficulties which appeared to him to be insurmountable: and he had freely stated his objections: but in this, as in all other cases, truth had prevailed: and having seen the feasibility of the plan, and the happy results which it held out in prospect, he gladly did all in his power to promote the undertaking. He again thanked them for the compliment they had awarded to him, for which he was exceedingly obliged: and the more so, because he was convinced that his efforts were too humble to deserve such kindness. It was, however, gratifying to anyone to be allowed to have done good in his generation; but the good he had done had been so little, that he attributed the flattering manner in which they had drank his health rather to their indulgence, than to any merits of his own (no, no). He again cordially thanked them.

"The visitors—who have honoured us with their company." Thomas Banger, Esq., returned thanks—as did also Mr. William Lock, who proposed "Prosperity to the Town of Beaminster."

The Chairman acknowledged the compliment, on behalf of the inhabitants of Beaminster.

The Vice-President proposed the health of Mr. Peter Cox, which was drank with every expression of satisfaction.

P. Cox, Esq., was extremely obliged for the very flattering manner in which his health had been drank; and assured the company that if ever any exertions of his could contribute to the advantage of the town, or the public generally, they were freely at their service. As the traffic through the tunnel would depend in a great measure upon the trade of Bridport, he could not do better than propose "Success to Bridport Harbour." The toast having been drank, Mr. Saunders returned thanks.

"Mr. George Cox, and thanks for his exertions at the battery." G. Cox, Esq., returned thanks, and observed that if in his efforts to-day to do honour to the cause, it was the opinion of the company that he had done his duty, he was amply rewarded.

"Mr. Waygood—and the Beaminster Choir"—Mr. W. returned thanks.

The Chairman then said he had another toast to propose: and he would preface it with one observation, as it might otherwise appear to have reference to politics, which he was desirous of avoiding. (Cheers). The success of the tunnel would depend greatly upon the trade of Bridport, and that port having recently been made a bonding-port, there was every probability that its trade would increase. There was one man through whose instrumentality it had chiefly been effected that Bridport had obtained the privileges of a bonding-port. That man was Mr. Warburton; and he, for that reason, proposed the health of that gentleman.

"Mr. Thomas Russell"—who returned thanks.

"The Church—and the health of the Rev. R. Cox."—The Rev. Gentleman, in returning thanks, observed that no one could more sincerely wish success to the tunnel than he did. As a clergyman he had always endeavoured to do his duty; and he hoped that it would be found that there were many others who also did theirs. "May the feelings of the inhabitants on both sides of the tunnel be enlarged tenfold towards each other, as the communication is now rendered more easy."

The Chairman, in proposing the health of Mr. John Martin, the surveyor, said he should not do justice to the scientific acquirements of that gentleman, did he not take that opportunity of saying that all the surveys that gentleman had made on the undertaking had invariably been found correct.

Mr. Martin returned thanks.

"The wooden walls of Old England and our British Sailor King."

"Mr. Humphrey Weld."

"The Ladies of Beaminster."—The Chairman, on behalf of the Ladies of Beaminster, acknowledged the compliment.

"The Committee of Management."

Mr. Peter Cox, as chairman of the committee, and Mr. R. Warr, returned thanks.

"Prosperity to the Town and Trade of Crewkerne, and its neighbourhood."

The Rev. R. Templeman, and Mr. Barrett returned thanks.

"Capt. Symes and the Burton Harriers."

Capt. Symes in thanking them for the compliment paid him, expressed the pleasure he felt in joining so happy and unanimous a company,

and the anxious desire he felt for the success of the undertaking, the completion of which they were assembled to celebrate.

"Mr. Farquharson and his Fox Hounds."—The Chairman, as a member of Mr. Farquharson's hunt, returned thanks.

"Mr. Portman and his Fox Hounds."

Several other toasts were proposed and drank with much éclat, and many songs were sung in a scientific style. Everything was well arranged, and passed off happily; and it is but justice to say, that at a more loyal, friendly, and harmonious meeting, we were never present.

Great credit is due to the committee of management for the arrangements made both for the procession in the morning, and the subsequent festival. The day altogether was one which will not be readily forgotten in the annals of Beaminster, and so long as the Tunnel itself shall exist, so long will the traditional tale of its happy opening be handed down from grandsire to grandson.

The evening concluded with a splendid display of fire-works, which were discharged from the Church Tower; and a large Montgolfier Balloon* ascended from a field adjoining the town.

A fair was held during the day on the summit of Horn Hill.

A SONG.

Composed by Mr. William Gardner "To celebrate the opening of Hornhill Tunnel, 1832, dedicated to G. Russell, Esq., the zealous promoter of the undertaking; and sung at the opening dinner by R. Waygood, Sen."

Hail, favour'd Town, to thee my Muse
Shall tune a cheerful lay,
In all thy sons a joy t' infuse,
For this auspicious day;

When, ever studious of thy weal,
Thy commerce to promote,
A Russell's patriots zeal
Shall live when we're forgot.

With lib'ral hand he op'd his store,
An easier path to form,
Than tow'ring "Horn" to labour o'er,
Expos'd to wind and storm.

E'en such a path 'twas wisely thought
Its verdant base might yield;
In excavation to be sought
By men in mining skill'd.

* Balloons, inflated with heated air, were first made by *Montgolfier*, in France.

History of Beaminster.

The yielding soil, through able hands,
 A tunnel wide displays ;
 And Lane's efficient aid demands
 Our warm, admiring praise.

In swelling streams may cheering wealth
 To Beaminster descend ;
 And ever joy-inspiring health
 Her social sons attend.

May patriots successive rise,
 This peaceful town to grace,
 And future ages richly prize
 Her enterprising race !

Now will we all in loud acclaim
 Our worthy patriot cheer,
 United with whose envied name
 Horn Tunnel shall appear.

Then drink, my friends, a bumper toast
 And make the welkin ring,
 Of Russell, Cox, we're proud to boast
 Huzza ! God save the King.

For about fifty years " Tunnel Fair " continued, and was annually held on Good Friday ; it however gradually dwindled and ultimately died a natural death.

Shortly after the tunnel was opened for traffic turnpike gates were placed at the junction of the Dorchester road. The following advertisement appeared in the *Dorset County Chronicle* of 5th July, 1832—

" BEAMINSTER TURNPIKE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN—That the Tolls which will arise at the Toll Gates about to be erected upon the Turnpike Road at or near Hornhill, and to be called or known by the name of *The Tunnel Gates, Will Be Let* from the 27th day of July next, till the 25th day of March next, by Auction, to the best bidder, at the house of John Hearn, known by the sign of the White Hart Inn, Beaminster, on Thursday the 26th day of the same month of July, between the hours of twelve and two, in the manner directed by the Act passed in the 3rd year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the 4th, "For regulating Turnpike Roads" which Tolls will be put up at such Sum as the Trustees shall think fit. Whoever happens to be the best bidder, must at the same time pay one month in advance of the Rent at which such Tolls may be let, and give security, with sufficient sureties, to the satisfaction of the Trustees of the said Turnpike Road, for payment of the rest of the Money monthly.

BENJAMIN AMES.

Clerk to the Trustees of the said Turnpike Road.

Beaminster, *June 25th, 1832.*"


On January 1st, 1881, the Tunnel Gates were removed, and the toll-house has since been used as the residence of the tunnel lamplighter.

At the same time two other turnpike gates in the town were swept away—"South Gate" on the Bridport Road, also "Earthpit Gate" on the Dorchester road.

In 1872 the tolls of the gates which comprised the "Second District Bridport Turnpike Trust"—*viz.* Bradpole gate, Pymore Lane gate, Beaminster South gate, and the Tunnel gate—were let for £1,230.

Chapter XXI.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH.

N the south-west corner of Whatley Mead stands the "New Church."

This building was the outcome of a proposition to enlarge the Parish Church, in order to obtain increased accommodation, by building a new aisle beyond the existing south aisle, with a second arcade opening to it and to the church. The surveyors appointed by the Churchwardens reported that "the Church was filled with high pews of various sizes on the ground floor, and over-crowded with huge galleries in both the Nave and Aisles." They were of opinion that the proposed extra aisle, which was to be 17 feet wide, would greatly disfigure the church, making the building too wide in proportion to its length. They also mentioned "the bad effect of two aisles on one side and only one on the other," and that "the general proportions of this fine old Church and Tower would be materially injured." Fortunately the project was abandoned in favour of a Chapel-of-ease for the residents of "the populous and increasing suburbs."*

In the architects' report, setting forth the then need of a chapel-of-ease in Beaminster they state: ". . . many of the seats in the parish church are so placed that their occupants can neither see nor hear the officiating Minister. This evil has been produced by the erection of galleries in a church by no means adapted to receive them; by which many of the seats for the use of the poor have been injured."

A circular printed and circulated in the town, set forth the then need of such a building, thus—

* The Parish Church at this time, 1848, contained seating accommodation for 986 persons.



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, BEAMINSTER.
1851.

“New District Church, proposed to be erected in the Parish of Beaminster, Dorset.

The estimated extent of the Town and Parish of Beaminster is 5,117 Acres. The Population as taken in 1841 was 3,160.

It comprises a large proportion of poor persons and is chiefly agricultural. The Parish, the form of which is nearly that of a Square, reaches in length from North to South rather more than three miles ; and in width from East to West, rather, but not much, less.

The present Church is situated at the South-Western Extremity of the Parish.

Towards the North and North-East lie the suburbs of New Town, Short Moor and the Green ; the Hamlets of Higher and Lower Meerhay, and outlying Farms on the Hills to the distance of three miles. These Suburbs and Hamlets are mostly of recent date ; are inhabited mostly by poor people, are populous and are increasing ; and Church accommodation and an additional Clergyman are much needed, generally for the Parish, but more especially for these parts ; insomuch that from the want of them, many of the Inhabitants and especially the poor are excluded altogether from the benefit of the Services of the Church.

For the district mentioned a new Church is sought. A natural boundary, including the whole of the parts mentioned, together with the several Hill Farms, exists for the most part of a proposed Line.

It would contain about 1000 Inhabitants ; and the new Church would be placed on the outskirts of the Town, in the most convenient Site for all ; having regard to all.

The new District Church, it is proposed, should be free and independent entirely of the Parish Church. It is proposed that it should contain from 400 to 500 persons ; and that every Pew and Seat in it should be entirely free and unappropriated, and open equally to the poor as to the rich.

It is estimated that such a Church built of a fair ecclesiastical character, and of substantial erection, with its Site, and Burial ground, and fittings, and contingent Expenses, would cost altogether from 3000*l* to 4000*l* according to the number of Persons which it is to contain : every possible expense included, endowment alone excepted. The undertaking has the warm approval of the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, of the Incumbent of the Living, and of the officiating Minister of the Town and Parish.

If sufficient Funds can be obtained therefore for effecting this work, with the assistance of Societies, it is intended to build and endow such a Church.

And an appeal is now made to the Inhabitants of the Parish, to the neighbourhood, and to all people interested therein ; to the public in general, and the friends of Church extension in particular, to assist in raising Funds for carrying into Effect this benevolent and important object, as well in regard to building, as to endowment. Subscriptions will be thankfully received, and may be paid on account of the Beaminster New District Church Fund, to Samuel Cox, Esq., Treasurer, and Chairman of the Committee for conducting the Undertaking ; to The Rev. Samuel Flood, Curate ; to Alexander Ramsay, or Edward Fox, Esq^r, Churchwardens of Beaminster ; or to Messrs. Williams, Bankers, at their Bank at Dorchester, or their Branch Banks at Beaminster, and elsewhere.

(Signed)

Beaminster, August, 1848.”

SAMUEL COX, *Chairman.*

The following Subscriptions are thankfully acknowledged—

	£	s.	d.
Her Majesty the Queen Dowager	20	0	0
The Lord Bishop of Salisbury (for Endowment)	25	0	0
Hon. and Rev. Somerville Hay, Vicar	25	0	0
Rev. T. R. Pulteney	50	0	0
The Earl of Ilchester, Melbury Park	50	0	0
Samuel Cox, Beaminster	150	0	0
Thomas Russell (for Building)	150	0	0
Mrs. Way (for Building)	5	0	0
Ditto (for Endowment)	5	0	0
Jas. Bandinel, Berkeley Square, London (Land for Endowment if the patronage be in the Bishop of the Diocese)	250	0	0
Rev. W. Maskell, St. Mary's, Torquay	30	0	0
Daniel Grant, Spring Side, Lancashire	30	0	0
Rev. G. Raymond, Symondsbury	25	0	0
Wm. Rose Holden, M.A., Clerk { If the Building be com- Mr. Hyla Holden { menced before the 14th Miss Holden { September, 1849 }	20	0	0
	2	0	0
	2	0	0
Lord Portman, Bryanstone House	10	0	0
Daniel Gurney, Lynn	10	0	0
Miss Mary Cox, Bettiscombe	10	0	0
Anonymous (Sherborne)	10	0	0
Marquess of Cholmondeley, Carlton Terrace	5	0	0
Mrs. Bridger, Brighton	5	0	0
Edward Pope, Mapperton	5	0	0
John Studley, Broadwindsor	5	0	0
Mrs. Studley	2	0	0
Samuel Grundy, Lark Hill, Lancashire	5	0	0
Rev. J. W. Scott, Bettiscombe	5	0	0
Rev. W. B. Hawkins, Sewell, Dorchester	5	0	0
Rev. G. Pickard Cambridge, Bloxworth House	5	0	0
Rev. Giles Meech, Great Toller	5	0	0
Dr. Keddle, Bridport	3	0	0
Hon. W. Booth Grey, Cheltenham	2	0	0
John Sparks, Crewkerne	1	1	0
Rev. G. Penny, Crewkerne	1	1	0
Giles Symonds, Dorchester	1	0	0
Edward Fox	200	0	0
Peter Cox	75	0	0
Alexander Ramsay	30	0	0
J. W. Daniel	30	0	0
H. P. Steele	25	0	0
Joachim Gilbert	10	0	0
Thomas P. Daniel	10	0	0
J. S. Webb	2	0	0
J. Cocks	5	0	0
George Cox	5	0	0
J. Warden	5	0	0
Mrs. Gilbert	5	0	0
Rev. Samuel Flood	2	0	0
Rev. Charles Forward	2	0	0
E. Coombs	2	0	0

Holy Trinity Church.

417

						£	s.	d.
Mrs. Dowdeswell	..	..	..	..	..	2	0	0
James Pittman	..	..	..	..	..	2	0	0
Mrs. Davy	..	..	..	..	..	2	0	0
R. C. Pooley	..	..	..	..	..	2	0	0
J. P. Frampton	..	..	..	..	..	2	0	0
John Hearn Barratt	..	..	..	..	..	2	0	0
George Swaffield	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
John Barratt	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
Edwin Keddle	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
Richard Warr	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
Wm. Gardener	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
George Stocker	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
Richard Hine	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
W. Chapple	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
R. Swatridge	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
W. Swatridge	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
Wm. Short	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
Mrs. Short	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
The Dorchester Bank	..	..	..	..	..	20	0	0
R. K. Seymer, M.P.	..	..	..	..	..	5	0	0
John Floyer, M.P.	..	..	..	..	..	5	0	0
Robert Williams	..	..	..	..	..	2	0	0
A. Toleman	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
E. Toleman	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
Joseph Marsh	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
Joseph Barter	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0
George Alexander	..	..	..	..	..	0	10	0
Rev. Gordon Deedes	..	..	..	..	..	5	5	0
Mrs. Young	..	..	..	..	..	5	0	0
Hon. Mrs. Hay	..	..	..	..	..	2	0	0
Miss Dodsworth	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	0

IN CARRIAGE OF MATERIALS.

						£	s.	d.
T. Gould, Knowle	..	..	..	..	..	3	0	0
Daniel Ackerman, North Field	..	..	..	..	..	3	0	0
John Follett, Meerhay Farm	8 days hauling							
William Witty, Chapel Marsh	5	..	..			
Daniel Ackerman, Axnoller	5	..	..			
Mrs. Newman, Wellwood	5	..	..			
John Galpin, Buckham	5	..	..			
William Elliott do.	5	..	..			
John Gale do.	5	..	..			
William Stickland, Axnoller	5	..	..			
John Bowditch, Shatcombe	5	..	..			
1850. Nov. 9th. Trustees Tuckers Charity	..	..	..	..	..	10	0	0

On October 4th, 1849, the foundation-stone of the Church, brought from Ham hill and weighing four tons, was laid by Samuel Cox. It was placed level with the surface of

the ground and inserted partly in the buttress and partly in the north-east corner of the chancel. The actual foundations are five feet below the surface, placed on a bed of concrete formed of small flints and liquid mortar. The architects were Messrs. Carver and Giles of Taunton, and the builders John Chick—who secured the contract—assisted by William and Robert Chambers, all Beaminster men.

The building, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is in the Early English style of architecture, and is built of flint or random stone-work, with Ham-stone dressings, quoins and buttresses.

The edifice consists of a nave, chancel with small vestry on its north side, aisles and north and south porches.

The aisles are separated from the nave by five pointed arches, springing from massive circular columns. The lofty pointed chancel arch is in good proportions, but is somewhat disfigured by a painted text on wood around it.

“Thus have I looked for Thee in holiness that I might behold Thy power and glory.”

A small modern bell is contained in a turret with two niches, on the gable at the junction of the nave and chancel.

The roof of the nave is of oak, and is lofty, as also is that of the chancel, while those of the aisles are somewhat low-pitched.

The pulpit is of English oak, circular, with stair and door, and is placed on a Ham hill stone base.

The font, also of Ham-stone, consists of an octagonal basin, supported by three circular pillars, which rest on an octagonal base. Both pulpit and font are of the date of the Church.

The reredos is of carved Caen stone, with marble pillars placed on a Ham-stone ledge. There are three divisions: the centre one contains a stone cross, on the two outside ones are painted a figure of an angel, each with a scroll; on one is inscribed “Instant in Prayer,” and on the other “Sing ye Praises.” The general effect is somewhat crude and has a dull appearance.

The church is lighted by double trefoil-headed lancet windows, four each in the north and south aisles and one at the east and west ends of both aisles.

The clerestory contains eight windows of small trefoil and quatrefoil lights alternately.

The west window is of four lights, with three circles in the head containing trefoils.

The east window consists of three trefoil-headed lancets in a pointed arch. The windows at the east end of the north and south aisles are similar to the others in those aisles, but are larger. There are also two windows on the south side of the chancel and one on the north; these consist of two trefoil-headed lancets in a pointed arch. The east,* west and three windows in the south aisle contain coloured glass of a very inferior kind, with atrocious colouring and bad draughtsmanship.

The east window contains in the centre of each of the three lights, a poor and diminutive representation of some subject. The middle one is a portraiture of Christ after His baptism, standing alone on the edge of the water, and a dove descending on His head; above is a scroll bearing the words "Hic est meus Filius dilectus." In the left-hand light the subject is Abraham receiving the three angels; and in the right-hand one, Christ talking to the woman of Samaria at the well. The rest of the window is filled with coloured geometrical patterns both ugly and unmeaning.

In the west window each light contains a figure in highly brilliant colouring—

- (1). Noah holding a model of the Ark.
- (2). Moses bearing the tablets of stone.
- (3). Solomon with a model of the Temple.
- (4). Nehemiah holding a roll in his hand.

The three upper lights contain symbols of the Passion, nails, hammer, cross, etc. Below are scenes illustrative of the building of the Temple. Beneath the window is a brass tablet inscribed—

✠ To the Glory Of God and in remembrance of Samuel Cox who laid the foundation stone of this Church October IV M.D.CCCXLIX. And died October XXII M.D.CCCLX. Aged LXX years.†

* The following extract is from a short account of the building published in 1857. "The East window is of stained glass, emblematical of the Holy Trinity, and was presented to the Church by the residents, by funds raised by subscription; it is a very good and elegant specimen."

† Samuel Cox took an active part in the erection of the church; the land for the site—about half an acre—was given by him.

The east window of the south aisle contains two subjects in coloured glass—

- (1). St. Peter walking on the sea ; underneath are the words " Lord Save Me."
- (2). Christ stilling the tempest ; " Peace be Still."

This window is " To the Glory of God—And in Memory of Edward Bellamy Kitson. Died Oct. 14, 1866."

The two adjoining windows in the south aisle—also of coloured glass—are both ugly and grotesque in the representation of the subjects. The first window portrays the story of the good Samaritan : " To the Glory of God & in Memory of Joachim Gilbert, Died 19 Jan., 1871. Aged 72."

The next window, " To the Glory of God and In Memory of Sarah Gilbert, Died 4 Sept., 1881. Aged 84," represents the raising of Lazarus.

It is generally acknowledged that all the stained glass windows in the church are but feeble attempts of modern artists in this class of work, and consist of subjects treated in such a manner as to produce startling results, distasteful and wearying to eyes that have been trained to admire the beautiful painted glass of the Middle Ages.

The harmonium purchased in 1893 to replace a smaller one, bears a brass plate inscribed—" Laus Deo ✠ In Pious Memory of Georgina Cox who died 29th May, 1880."

The seats of the church, which are of pitch-pine, have accommodation for 404 persons.

The communion vessels are modern, and consist of a parcel-gilt Chalice and Paten of unusual design. The bowl of the cup has representations of the Apostles in niches, and around the stem is entwined a serpent. On the rim is inscribed " The gift of Vertue the Wife of Sam^l Cox, Esq^{re}, to the Chapel of the Holy Trinity, Beaminster, the 17th of June, 1851."

The paten, with similar design and ornamentation, was " The gift of Mrs. Edward Fox to the Chapel of the Holy Trinity, Beaminster, the 17th June, 1851."

On Tuesday, June 17th, 1851, the Church was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. Edward Denison, D.D., Bishop of Salisbury, and opened for public worship.

The Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty hold for the Chapelry of Holy Trinity £802, upon which they allow in-

terest at their current rate, now three per cent. Nothing can be found to shew the origin of this sum, but it no doubt included the £25, £5, and £250 given for endowment by the Bishop of Salisbury, Mrs. Way and Mr. James Bandinel respectively, as shewn in the subscription list.

The building is also endowed with a Tithe rent charge of £33 14s. 6d., for particulars of which see Chapter XXV.

In 1858 a faculty was granted for setting up a font in the church, and during the restoration of the parish church, 1861-2, a temporary licence was obtained for solemnizing marriages in the building.

At the time the burial ground was enlarged in 1894, an entrance was made to the church on the north side to enable the wheel bier to be brought into the building at funerals.

About the same time the west end of the nave was re-seated and the font moved from near the south door to its present position. The cost of these works was about £60.

Unfortunately since the erection of the church the suburbs of Newtown, Shortmoor and Gerrard's Green, also the hamlets of Higher and Lower Meerhay have become well nigh depopulated, nevertheless at least one service is held in the building every Sunday.

In consequence of the closing of the burial ground at the Parish Church, it became necessary to provide further accommodation. The question was considered at a vestry meeting held March 25th, 1892.

A Committee was appointed consisting of the Vicar (Rev. A. A. Leonard) and Churchwardens (Messrs. J. Barratt Dunn and J. Lane Kitson), together with Messrs. H. Crocker, J. H. Fussell, E. G. Legg, and J. Shiner; subsequently Messrs. W. Andress, W. R. Pile, R. Leigh, Capt. T. Russell and Mr. J. Swaffield were added. After considering several suggested sites, the Lord of the Manor* agreed to sell rather less than one acre of the field adjoining Holy Trinity Churchyard.


The total cost of the undertaking, including purchase of site (£80), was £350, which amount was entirely raised by voluntary contributions.

On Monday, August 27th, 1894, the addition to the graveyard was consecrated by the Rt. Rev. J. Wordsworth, D.D., Bishop of Salisbury.

* John Russell Cox, Esq.

Chapter XXII.

READING ROOMS. INSTITUTE AND PUBLIC HALL.

RIOR to the abolition of the newspaper stamp duty, cheap papers were unknown, and news travelled slowly through country towns and villages. It was in the public houses that people used to gather to hear the paper read.

On October 19th, 1854, the "Beaminster Mutual Improvement Society" was established. This is the earliest record we have of a Reading Room in the town. It appears that a small room attached to, and with an entrance from, the Town Hall was rented of John Marsh, a tenant of the Market House Inn.

During the first year, seventy members were enrolled including four ladies; the annual subscription being 3s. 6d. with an entrance fee of one shilling. William M. Sherring acted as the Hon. Secretary and Alfred Hine Hon. Treasurer. The Reading Room was supplied with the following newspapers: *Times*, *Express*, *Dorset County Chronicle*, *Bridport News*, *Punch*, *Illustrated London News*, the *Art Journal* and a few periodicals. Chess and Draughts were played, and a very limited number of books and journals constituted a lending library.

These were days long before the electric telegraph had reached Beaminster, and news of the world's doings arrived by coach which brought the *Times* at 6 p.m. from Taunton. The *Times* then cost fivepence a copy, and the coachman was paid five shillings per quarter for bringing the paper, which was always anxiously awaited.

During the winter months scientific lectures, concerts and "penny readings," were given by members of the Society and their friends in the Town Hall.

At the end of each quarter the newspapers were sold by weight, the *Times* fetching as much as fourpence *per* pound.

In April, 1856, the Reading Room at the Town Hall was abandoned, and a more convenient room rented in the Fore-place. After six years, in 1862, the reading-room was transferred to a house in Church street, until recently the Post Office, but on account of insufficient support the Beaminster Mutual Improvement Society came to an end in 1868.

In the year 1877 a "Working Men's Institute"* was established at a public meeting held at the Town Hall. Lieut.-Colonel Samuel Symes Cox, who took a great interest in the formation of the Institution, was appointed chairman of the committee. A house in North street was rented as a residence for the caretaker in which two rooms were set apart for the Institute—one on the ground floor with a bagatelle table, constituted the games room. The reading-room, upstairs, contained a liberal supply of both daily and weekly newspapers, magazines and a few books. The Working Men's Institute started its career with every prospect of success, the members numbering about sixty. For some years under the influence of "The Colonel," the Institution continued to flourish.

From North street the Institute was transferred in 1888 to smaller and less suitable premises in the Fore-place. Here the committee, who were loyally supported by Mr. Tom Cox, the then Manager of the Wilts and Dorset Bank, did their utmost to keep the Institute afloat. Gradually, however, the membership declined until the winter of 1893-4, when after a somewhat chequered career the Working Men's Institute ceased to exist, and for about four years the town possessed no public Reading Room.

In the autumn of 1896 premises in Hogshill street were secured and there the "Beaminster Institute" was launched. The Rev. A. A. Leonard (Vicar), chairman of the committee, and the Rev. Frank Coram (Congregational Minister) took considerable interest in the movement. About eighty members were enrolled and for a time the

* In 1861 the Rev. J. Thomson made an attempt to found a Working Men's Reading Room at the Congregational Chapel School, but his efforts, after about a year, ended in failure.

Institution flourished. The two rooms available—one for games, the other for reading—were however inadequate, both being small and ill-ventilated, consequently the membership gradually declined until the committee were compelled to rely on proceeds of entertainments to help meet current expenses. Then came the present commodious buildings in Fleet street, to which the furniture and bagatelle table were transferred.

In 1902 as a permanent memorial of the Coronation of King Edward VII the present Institute and Public Hall were erected. The town had long stood in need of such a building and it was chiefly through the generosity of Mr. Peter Meech that the scheme was floated.

On November 20th, 1901, Mr. Fiennes Trotman (Chairman of the Parish Council) convened a public meeting, which was largely attended, and held at the National School, Hogshill street.

The Chairman stated that Mr. Peter Meech, in response to a memorial signed by 150 parishioners, had promised to subscribe £400 towards building an Institute and Public Hall, also Mrs. Cox (Manor House) £100 and Mr. Philip J. Rutland, £25. A representative committee was appointed at the meeting.

When £1000 had been subscribed, Mr. B. Vaughan Johnson—a London architect—was asked to prepare plans, and in April, 1902, three tenders for the erection of the building were sent in, *viz.*—

B. B. Chambers (Beaminster)	..	..	..	£1170
J. G. Sprackling (Netherbury)	..	..	..	£1250
C. & A. Hann (Beaminster)	..	..	..	£1383

Mr. Chambers' tender was accepted and building operations at once commenced.

On June 17th, 1902, a massive foundation stone was laid by Mr. Peter Meech in the presence of a large and enthusiastic gathering of parishioners. The Beaminster Brass Band supplied the music. A hymn was sung and prayer offered by the Vicar (Rev. A. A. Leonard). In a cavity in the stone was placed a leaden box containing copies of the *Bridport News* of November 22nd, 1901, and May 2nd, 1902, a list of about 230 subscribers, and some current coins of the realm. By April, 1903, the building was completed. It is built of local stone, with Ham-hill stone

string course and dressings ; the chief corner stone is also of Ham-stone and inscribed—

This Stone
Was Laid by
Peter Meech
A Native of Beaminster
17th June, 1902.

The frontage to the street is 44 feet and its extreme length, front to back, 96 feet. Over the main entrance is the following inscription—

1902
Institute and Public Hall.

On the right of the entrance hall—the floor of which is of encaustic tiles—is the Reading Room, 15ft. x 13ft., and on the left a Recreation Room 17ft. x 18ft. Over the Recreation Room and Entrance Hall is a Billiard Room, 25ft. x 18ft., adjoining which is the Library, used also as a Committee Room.

In the Reading Room hangs a portrait in oils of Mr. Peter Meech, which was presented by Mr. P. J. Rutland, and in the Entrance Hall is a brass inscribed—

This Tablet
Is Erected to Celebrate The
Coronation
of
King Edward VII.

The above was arranged to take place
on June 26th, 1902
but owing to the sudden illness of
the King the rejoicings in this Town
were only partially entered into.
His Majesty was ultimately Crowned
on August 9th, 1902
and the rejoicings were completed
on August 13th, 1902.

This
Institute & Public Hall
Was Erected As A
Permanent Memorial
Of The Above.

The Public Hall on the ground floor measures 55ft. x 26ft. It can comfortably accommodate 300 persons. There is a gallery at its west end capable of seating fifty people. At the rear of the Hall are two ante-rooms. The premises are well built, lighted by gas, and supplied with the town water.

In the Hall is a brass tablet bearing the names of the Beaminster Volunteers who served in the South African campaign, 1900-2.

On April 20th, 1903, the building was formally opened by Col. Robert Williams, M.P. for West Dorset. On the platform were Sir Henry Peto, Bart, Rev. A. A. Leonard, Mrs. Cox (Manor House), the Hon. Mrs. Hardcastle, the Hon. Mrs. Duckworth, Mr. J. Lane Kitson, Mr. F. Trotman (Chairman of the Committee), Mr. Richard Hine (Hon. Secretary), and Mr. B. Vaughan Johnson (Architect of the building).

After the speeches, Col. Williams was enrolled the first member of the Institute. A musical entertainment concluded the ceremony.

About £2000 has now been expended on the building, purchase of site, and equipment of the premises.

The principal subscribers to the funds were—

Mr. Peter Meech	..	..	..	£400
Mrs. Cox (Manor House)	..	..	..	£110
The Hon. Mrs. Hardcastle	..	..	..	£85
Col. Williams, M.P.	..	..	..	£60
Mr. J. Barratt Dunn	..	..	..	£50
Mr. F. P. Kitson	..	..	..	£30
Mr. J. Lane Kitson	..	..	..	£30
Lord Portman	..	..	..	£25
The Hon. Mrs. White	..	..	..	£20
Rev. W. A. Duckworth	..	..	..	£20

It is hoped that some day a Museum will be added to the premises in which to store curiosities of local interest. There are at present in the Institution, an old Beaminster Fire Engine, a banner of the "Friendly Society," the original parchment muster-roll of the "Beaminster Loyal Town Volunteers" [the latter presented by Mr. J. Russell Cox], an original programme of Order of Procession at the opening of Horn Hill Tunnel; a collection of Dorset Tokens and Coins presented by Mr. H. Symonds, Bridport; an original Official Brief authorizing the collection of money for rebuilding the town, after the fire of 1684.

Also the following portraits—Thomas Spratt, D.D., Bishop of Rochester, Admiral Alexander Hood, Admiral Sir Samuel Hood, and Vice-Admiral Sir Samuel Hood, presented by Mr. A. M. Broadley.

In 1913 Captain J. H. Arden on leaving the town placed on loan in the Public Hall a collection of animals' heads and other trophies brought by him from Central Africa where he had recently commanded an expedition.

The Institute is amply supplied with newspapers, and an excellent library of books is being formed.

The membership roll has not fallen below one hundred, including about twenty-five ladies.

The Officers of the Institute consist of a Chairman, General Manager, Hon. Secretary, and Hon. Treasurer, and a committee of eighteen, nine of whom are nominated by the Beaminster Parish Council, and nine by the Institute members.

Both the Institute and Public Hall are much appreciated, and it is universally acknowledged that the building is a very great boon to the town and neighbourhood.

For more than half a century attempts have from time to time been made to secure for the town suitable premises for an Institute. To-day there stands a worthy edifice well befitting a Coronation Memorial, the entire cost of which was defrayed by voluntary contributions, readily subscribed by the majority of the townspeople and friends from far and near.

It should however be placed on record that the parishioners are chiefly indebted to Mr. Fiennes Trotman for his great zeal which enabled him to overcome all difficulties connected with the undertaking. He was throughout loyally supported by an enthusiastic committee.

Chapter XXIII.

WATERWORKS. RAINFALL. FLOODS.



THE sanitary condition of the town has for many years been under consideration by the authorities, and various schemes for dealing with the sewage and drainage—which from time immemorial has flowed untreated into the river Brit—have been suggested. Fortunately for some years past the zymotic death-rate has been remarkably low.

Of the several water-courses which in times past were uncovered in the town, some have been bridged and arched over. Fleet* street as its name implies marks the course of a stream.† When the roadway was opened in 1907 for the purpose of laying the town water main the excavations revealed an ancient river-bed, in which the workmen discovered a wooden pipe or conduit made of oak, sodden and decayed. Amongst the gravel several seventeenth century iron ox and horse shoes were found, together with a bronze spoon probably of the Elizabethan period.

From “Luggs” the river (now diverted) once—probably in Mediæval times—ran down the middle of Fleet street, through the Fore-place into Church street, and joined the stream now flowing beneath the roadway in St. Mary Well street.

In 1691 “John Hearne y^e weywarden” was paid £1 8s. 4d. “for new makeing of Hames Brydge.”

During the year 1778 Prout Bridge—just below the present Police Station—“was considerably enlarged so that carriages can pass over it.”‡ Prior to this date the bridge was only wide enough for foot passengers, and

* Fleet=Anglo-Saxon *fleot* or *fliet*, which signifies a channel or running stream.

† The town reservoir is still supplied with water by a small stream which flows down Fleet street.

‡ J. B. Russell's MS.

vehicles entering or leaving the town had to pass through the river which then ran across the roadway at the foot of the hill. It appears that the high-pitched arch built over the stream in 1778 proved a danger to traffic, and about the year 1839 the bridge was lowered to the present level of the roadway.

Until 1832 St. Mary Well street was an open river* with a cobbled pathway in front of the houses on either side. In a parish book there is an entry dated 1692 "The Charge of the Stone Bridge that was new built in Mary Well street comes to £1 : 18 : 7." A letter dated October 10th, 1832, states that "the whole of that nasty river is arched and is now made quite a nice road all the way down to the bridge."

The site of Saint Mary's Well may yet be seen. Time was when the waters of this well were supposed to possess great healing properties, but as people became more enlightened and superstitions gradually vanished, the little spring lost—like many others—its miraculous power. Now alas the well is almost forgotten, and its once prized waters trickle unheeded into the river beneath the roadway.

* * * * *

During the years 1625-6 the West of England had one of its worst visitations of the Plague, during which time Beaminster suffered severely.†

In 1791 "Putrid Fever" raged in the town.

Frequent entries in the parish books attest the ravages of Small-pox at Beaminster, in common with every other place, before the discovery of vaccination.

At a Vestry held 19th March, 1758—

"It was agreed & Ordered that Mr. Oliver Hoskins, Mr. Jno. Daniel & Mr. Jno. Cox shall be Paid and Allow'd for Inoculating Attending & Soplying Physick to all such Poor Parisheners as are willing to be Inoculated after the Rate of Five shillings p. head, and that if any Person apply to y^m or Either of y^m for that Purpose who they deem not to be such Poor Persons as are hereby intended to be Inoculated they shall refer themselves to Mr. Baruch Fox, Mr. Sam. Cox, & Mr. George Eveleidge for their Directions therein."

* A veritable "Duck street" as it was locally named.

† It has been stated "that the death rate rose in an alarming manner." If this be correct the victims must have been buried in a "plague pit" and not in the churchyard, as the number of burials recorded in the parish Register for the year 1625 was thirty-five, and in 1626 only eighteen.

Paid for Inoculating 27 poor at 5s. each—£6 15s. 0d.

" 1791. May 29th. Ordered that Mr. Hermon Hodge & Mr. John Daniel surgeons be paid 3s. 6d. for ea. poor per. innoculated for small pox & that Mr. Joy of Maiden Newton surgeon be paid £5 5s. 0d. for procuring the innoculating matter.

1791. July 17th to Aug. 17th. H. B. Hodge for Innoculating 184 Poor Persons at 3s. 6d. ea.—£32 4s. 0d.

Jno. Daniel 195 at 3s. 6d.—£34 2s. 6d.

Ordered that the Overseers do examine the Bills now given in by Messrs. Hodge & Daniel for innoculating the Poor and do pay the same out of their next collection of Rates, and that from this time Innoculation shall cease in the Town, and if any surgeon or Apothecary resident in the Town shall set in defiance this Resolution,—We shall consider him as an improper Person to have the Care of the Poor at any future Time.

Signed : Jn^o B. Russell—W^m Coward—Jam^a Daniel—H. B. Hodge—John Daniel."

In 1780 John Daniel, John Cox, and James Daniel were each paid £17 13s. 4d. for Innoculating the Poor.

* * * * *

1854. February 16th. "At a Vestry Meeting held this day in the Vestry Room adjoining the Church Saint Mary's, pursuant to Notice duly given, for the purpose of appointing a Board of Health for the inspection of the Houses in this Parish with respect to their Sanitary Condition as recommended by the Board of Guardians of the Beaminster Union."

Moved by Mr. Baruch Fox "that there is no necessity for the establishment of a Board of Health in this Parish, *carried unanimously.*"

1866. August 31st. At a Vestry meeting it was resolved "that with a view of making a thorough house to house inspection throughout the parish as recommended by the Board of Guardians preparatory to the removal of existing nuisances, the following Gentlemen do form a local Board of Health"

1885. May 7th. The Water Question—Vestry meeting held for considering a communication received from the Rural Sanitary Authority of the Beaminster Union, with reference to the defective water supply* to several houses in the town and to make suggestions thereon. It was de-

* Until 1908 a large proportion of the inhabitants' drinking water was obtained from "Flatter Shoot."

cided "that where the Water supply is proved to be insufficient or unwholesome the owners of the properties should in the first instance be called upon to make it good."

WATER WORKS.

In October, 1906, after years of waiting, a successful attempt to supply the town with water was commenced by making a "bore-hole" near the source of the river Brit at Langdon, the object being to ascertain the exact level at which water might be found. A tender for the work was accepted from H. J. G. Hole of Poyntington, near Sherborne.

Some years previously an endeavour to obtain water was made in a small field adjoining Stintford Lane, but after considerable excavation the site had to be abandoned on account of the "running sand" encountered. The experiment cost about £200.

In January, 1907, the engineers employed by the Rural District Council—Messrs. Beesley, Son and Nichols, of Westminster—reported that the boring* at Langdon had been satisfactory, and a plentiful supply of water obtained by means of a syphon.

An adit† or inclined passage was next cut into the side of the hill, but before the bore-hole was reached an ample supply of water was procured.

On February 14th, 1907, a Local Government Board Inquiry was held at the White Hart Hotel, to consider an application made by the Rural District Council for sanction to borrow £3,200 for the purpose of a water supply to the parish of Beaminster. The enquiry was conducted by H. R. Cooper, M.Inst.C.E.

The area of the parish was stated to be over 2,000 acres, and the population—at the 1901 census—1702; Rateable value, £9,636. Assessable value, £7,198. A penny rate would produce £22 10s. 0d.

The engineer, Mr. B. Nichols, reported that on August 19th, the amount of water flowing through the adit was 85,000 gallons, and four days later 91,152 gallons. It was

* Depth of bore hole 80 feet, in which water rose to a height of about 50 feet.

† Commenced in May and finished in September, cost together with the bore hole £492 19s. 6d.

estimated that the population of the district not requiring the water was 150, leaving 1,550 to be supplied. Allowing fifteen gallons per head per day, 23,150 gallons only would be needed; or if reckoned at the rate of twenty gallons, 31,000 gallons a day would be required. This quantity was considerably less than half the daily supply of the spring according to an estimate from six months' gauging.

It was also stated that a tender for the work had been provisionally accepted, *viz.* J. H. Macdonald, of Oxford, £2,554.*

The additional items to be provided for were—Engineers' charges, £175.† Clerk of Works, £175.‡ Legal expenses and printing, £83. Easements (1,600 yards to cover everything), £200. Estimated total, £3,380.

As a result of the enquiry, the Local Government Board sanctioned a loan of £3,420, repayable by half-yearly instalments, spread over a period of thirty years.

The land having been leased from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for a period of ninety-nine years, the work was commenced.

Near the adit a service reservoir was constructed of brick and concrete, with timber and concrete sides and concrete arched cover, capable of holding a two days' supply, *viz.* about 75,000 gallons. The fall from the reservoir to the town is 350 feet.

In March, 1908, the long expected supply of pure water reached the town, and the engineer reported that the works under contract had been completed, including extras, for £2,623 13s. 10d.

It having been decided to extend the water mains to the outlying districts of Newtown and Shortmoor, a second Government Inquiry, presided over by Mr. M. K. North, M.Inst.C.E., was held on September 23rd, 1908. At the meeting application was made for raising a further loan of £718. This amount included the estimated cost of laying about 750 yards of pipes to Shortmoor and Newtown, *viz.* £283. The water-work's Manager—W. B. Newman—reported that the pressure on the pipes in the Fore-place was about 130lbs. to the square inch.

* This amount did not include the cost of twelve stand-pipes or the fire hydrants, since placed in different parts of the town.

† £57 additional charges were added later.

‡ Mr. J. R. Davy of Plymouth, Clerk of Works, employed at £3 3s. 0d. per week, from June, 1907, to February, 1908. Total payments £108 13s. 2d.

In June, 1909, the extension of the mains was completed, and both Newtown and Shortmoor were supplied with the town water.

The total length of water mains now laid is about 20,000 feet or a little more than $3\frac{3}{4}$ miles of 3in. pipes.

Thus the long and arduous duties of the Water Committee terminated; the task before them had at times seemed almost insurmountable, but piloted by their Chairman, Mr. John Lane Kitson—whose unceasing work in the cause should be recorded—they, after years of toil, were the means of conferring upon the inhabitants of Beaminster one of the greatest boons of modern times.

Since the completion of the works, the highest gauging of water flowing from the adit, 396,000 gallons *per 24 hours*, was on December 27th, 1910; the lowest 43,714 on December 4th, 1911.

The Rural District Council's charges for use of the water for domestic purposes are—

For a house and premises the rateable value of which does not exceed £4 os. od.—6s. *per annum*.

Ditto exceeding £4 but under £6—8s. 8d. *per annum*.

Ditto which is £6 or over—1s. 6d. in £—*per annum*.

RAINFALL.

Since the year 1872 a complete record of the rainfall has been kept at the Vicarage. The average fall here for the past forty years is 38.03 inches.*

Beaminster has on many occasions suffered severely from sudden floods.

J. B. Russell records "October 6th, 1786, a very high Flood, the oldest people do not remember a greater."

The most disastrous flood experienced here during recent years occurred during the night of August 26th—27th, 1894. Rain had been falling for several days and culminated in a severe thunderstorm, which broke over the town shortly before midnight. Torrents of water poured down the surrounding hills into the town, and the experience of many inhabitants was described as a night of terror. Garden walls were thrown down, bridges swept away, and many houses at Prout Bridge and South Gate

* Highest 49.25 inches in 1903. Lowest 28.26 in 1887.

partially wrecked, their contents being washed down the river to Netherbury. At "Beridth," the then residence of Captain Thomas Russell, the high water mark in the library was shewn at 5ft. 10ins. An approximate estimate of the damage done was £10,000. The committee formed to relieve the sufferers received about £230 in subscriptions, in addition to large quantities of clothing and furniture.

The late Mr. James Andrews, Junr., in an explanation of Beaminster floods says—

"The town has a very precipitous, but fortunately a very small watershed, the smallest of any town in Dorset, except Shaftesbury; and no water outside a radius of a mile and a half of Beaminster discharges through the town. West Bay's watershed would be 10 miles, Dorchester's 15 miles, Wareham's more than 30 miles, whilst the rivers Axe and Parret, rising a mile or two from here, discharge, one at Seaton, and the other into the Bristol Channel. Beaminster's watershed may be compared to a large basin tipped on one side, with lofty sides or hills to the N.W., North and N.E., 600 to 800 feet high, with the town lying at their feet, and having a narrow neck or outlet to the south to West Bay 200 feet below,* which outlet carries off a number of small streams which converge on the town. This narrow outlet will carry off all the water that usually falls in the Beaminster area up to a certain rate of tons per acre per hour; once exceed this rate and a flood begins. I have no hesitation in saying that it might rain here continuously but steadily, from 1st January to December 31st at the rate of $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches a day, and the outlet would carry it off So long as the pace at which rain falls at Beaminster does not exceed 30 or probably even 40 tons per acre an hour, the present outlet is sufficient to carry it off; but let the rate of falling be increased to over 60 tons per acre an hour, and a flood must commence in about two hours, and each half hour after that, and at the same rate, would make the flood more and more serious.

It will be observed therefore, that it is not the quantity of rain falling, but the pace at which it falls, that does the mischief at Beaminster, and that whilst only two inches falling in three hours, or at the rate of 66 tons per acre an hour, would cause a serious flood, double the quantity of rain might fall in 12 hours and cause no flood, as the pace being only 33 tons per acre an hour, the outlet would carry it.

Examinations of the rain-gauge at times of exceptionally heavy rains would always enable timely warning to be given of a probable approaching flood."

* The Fore-place is 196 feet above sea level.

Chapter XXIV.

UNION WORKHOUSE.



ABOUT a mile from the town the present Union Workhouse was erected and opened for occupation June 24th, 1838.

On June 10th, 1836, a committee was appointed to select a site, and two acres of freehold pasture land situate at Stoke Water were purchased of Samuel Cox, Esq., for the sum of £315.

For the purpose of building the Workhouse, purchase of land, etc., £5,500 were borrowed of a Mr. Jennings of Evershot at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

On November 24th, 1836, Articles of Agreement were made and entered into, between Richard Warr, of Beaminster, builder, and the Guardians of the Poor of the Beaminster Union.

By an order bearing date March 28th, 1836, under the hands and seal of the Poor Law Commissioners, acting under the powers and authorities of an Act passed in the fourth and fifth years of the reign of King William IV, intituled *An Act for the Amendment and better administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales*, it was declared that the several parishes of Beaminster, Bettiscombe, Burstock, Broadwindsor, Cheddington, East Chelborough, West Chelborough, Corscombe, Evershot, Halstock, Hook, Mapperton, Marshwood, Melbury Osmond, Melbury Sampford, Mosterton, Netherbury, South Perrott, Pilsdon, Poorstock, North Poorton, Rampisham, Stoke Abbott, Wraxall, in the County of Dorset; Misterton and Seaborough in the County of Somerset, should be united for the administration of the laws for the relief of the poor by the name of the Beaminster Union.

It was amongst other things ordered that the Guardians "cause to be built a Workhouse for the common use of

the several Parishes of the said Union, and that such Workhouse shall be of a size sufficient to hold 230* persons, men, women, and children properly classified, and shall be built according to such Plans as the said Poor Law Commissioners shall approve."

On October 6th, 1836, Richard Warr's tender of £4,120 for building the Workhouse, according to the plans and specifications of Edward Munday, the architect, was accepted.

					£	s.	d.
Cost of building	..	..		Tender—	4120	0	0
Ditto	..	..		Extras—	372	9	9
					<hr/>		
					4492	9	9
Architect 3½ per cent.	..	..	..	..	157	5	0
Clerk of Works	..	..	..	..	67	12	0
Further, say	..	..	..	..	100	0	0
					<hr/>		
					4817	6	9
Cost of land	..	..	..	..	315	0	0
					<hr/>		
Total cost	..	..	..	..	£5132	6	9
					<hr/>		

When the Workhouse was built it contained—

Waiting Hall. Bread Receiving-room—now the Master's Office. Refractory Ward for males—a small dark dungeon, now abolished. Receiving Ward for males. Bakehouse—now a Carpenter's shop. No. 1 Work-room for men—now a Tramp ward for females. No. 2 Work-room—now Male Tramp Ward. No. 3 Work-room—now a stable and wood shed. No. 1 Day-room for men. No. 2 ditto. Boy's School and Dining-room—now Boy's Day-room. Larder. Dining-hall and Chapel combined—now Dining-hall only. Porter's-room. Receiving Ward for females. Refractory Ward for females—now abolished. Wash-house. No. 1 Work-room for females—now the Laundry. No. 2 ditto—now Women's Day-room. Day-room, for old women; ditto, for young women—now the Chapel. Children's School and Dining-room—now Children's Day-room. Scullery and Cook-house. Kitchen. Infirmary Ward for females. Surgery—now Women's Day-room. Infirmary Ward for males. Board-room (over entrance hall). Clerk's Office. Waiting-room. Master's Bed-room. Master's Sitting-room. Store-room (clothing). Lying-in room. Women's dormitory. Girls' dormitory. School-master's dormitory. School-master's sitting-room. No. 1 Men's dormitory. No. 2 Men's dormitory.

* According to the present requirements of the Local Government Board the house can only accommodate 130 persons.

INFIRMARY BLOCK.

Nurse's sitting-room. Work-room (females). Small kitchen. Two dormitories for females. Two dormitories for males; two dormitories for females—built 1863.

During the year 1849 a wing was added to the Infirmary on the north side, at a cost of £190. A south wing was also built, probably at the same time, but no mention is made of it in the Minute book.

In 1863 the Infirmary was enlarged by the addition of a second story the cost of which was £198.

On April 6th, 1836, the first meeting of the Board of Guardians took place at the Red Lion Inn.

At a subsequent assembly it was resolved "That the several Workhouses within this Union, *viz.* Beaminster, Broadwindsor, and Netherbury, be appropriated to the use of the Union, and that the salaries of the respective governors be as follows, *viz.* Mr. Guppy at Beaminster, at the rate of £60 *per annum*, Mr. Hardy at Netherbury £45 *per annum*, Mr. Day at Broadwindsor £30 *per annum*.

On March 22nd, 1838, Mr. and Mrs. Guppy were appointed Master and Matron of the Union Workhouse at a salary of £60 *per annum* "and such provisions as the house may afford."

1838. June 20th, possession of the Broadwindsor Workhouse was given up to the Parish Officials, and all the paupers were removed to the Beaminster Workhouse. They were transferred to the Union Workhouse at Stoke Water a week later, together with the inmates of the Beaminster Workhouse, when possession of the building was given up to the trustees of Gilbert Adams' Charity.

On the 14th June the same year Richard Whitty, a shoemaker, was appointed porter. Salary, £5 *per annum*.

June 29th the Guardians met for the first time in the Board Room of the new Union Workhouse.

In August John Cox was selected School-master at a salary of £7 *per annum*; and Sarah Hayward, School-mistress; her salary however was £15 a year.

On December 19th, 1839, the Guardians ordered "that the inmates have plum pudding and strong beer on Christmas day."

WEEKLY DIETARY TABLE, 1842.

DINNER.

	<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>
Sunday ..	16ozs. Suet or Rice Pudding	14ozs. ditto.
Monday ..	4ozs. Pork, 2lbs. Potatoes	3ozs. Pork, 2lbs. Potatoes.
Tuesday ..	2lbs. Potatoes, 4ozs. Bread	2lbs. Potatoes, 3ozs. Bread.
Wednesday	1½ pints Pea Soup	1½ pints Pea Soup.
Thursday ..	2½lbs. Potatoes	2lbs. Potatoes.
Friday ..	6ozs. Bread, 2ozs. Cheese	5ozs. Bread, 2ozs. Cheese.
Saturday ..	1½ pints Meal Soup, 6ozs. Bread	1½ pints Meal Soup, 5ozs. Bread.

BREAKFAST (each day).

Men ..	6ozs. Bread and 1½ pints Gruel.
Women ..	5ozs. Bread ditto

1843. December 26th—"The male inmates request the Master to report their intention of petitioning for more food."

1844. February 7th—"The Master reports that the men's beds are now fully occupied, and requests to be informed what is to be done?"—"If occasion should occur, make the Board Room a temp^y bedroom. G. Cox—Clerk."

1844. December 26th—"Moved by Lord Stavordale and seconded by Mr. Furmidge 'That it be taken into consideration the propriety of building a Chapel at the Union House, so that it may not be necessary to use the Common Dining Room for the purpose of Divine Worship.'"

No action seems to have been taken in the matter, consequently the Sunday services were continued in the Dining Hall until 1907.

In 1846 potatoes were struck out of the dietary table on account of failure of the crops, and rice was substituted.

1849. Number of inmates in the Workhouse—Males, 98. Females, 120. Total, 218.

1850. Tailor's shop constructed, and oakum picking started.



BOYS OF THE BEAMINSTER UNION WORKHOUSE. 1870.



GIRLS OF THE BEAMINSTER UNION WORKHOUSE. 1870.

1850. A copse adjoining the Workhouse "rented for twenty years."

This was converted into a garden by the able-bodied male paupers, for the use of the Union House.

1852. First Infirmary Nurse appointed.

1852. Tea allowed to old and infirm inmates for their evening meal.

1863, March 10th, "Dinner to Inmates to commemorate the Wedding Day of the Prince of Wales, similar to that given on Christmas Day."

1864. Vagrant Wards* erected to accommodate six men and four women. It was ordered that each tramp be allowed 7ozs. of bread for supper, and the same quantity for breakfast.

In 1868 Thomas Beale was appointed School-master and held the appointment until his death in 1872. During his short term of office he taught the boys to play the fife, and established the "Union Fife and Drum Band" which became very popular, both with the inmates of the Workhouse and the townspeople. Occasionally the band would lead the children into Beaminster when a hearty welcome was given to the boys and girls—dressed in their quaint uniform—as they marched along the streets to the strains of some lively tune.

At the Church Sunday-school treat, held at Parnham during the summer of 1869, the "Union Band" provided the music.

1876, July 20th. The Common Seal of the Guardians was affixed to the Conveyance to the Earl of Sandwich of the two cottages known as the "Poor Houses" . . . at North Poorton.

During the year 1907 two rooms in the Workhouse were converted into a Chapel† for the inmates.

On July 29th the Sanctuary was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. J. Wordsworth, D.D., Bishop of Salisbury, when the following Clergy were present, Revs. F. Williams, Bettiscombe-cum-Pilsdon (Chairman of the Board of Guardians), J. Pulliblack (Rampisham-cum-Wraxall), H. Allen (South

* The Tramp Wards will now accommodate sixteen men and three women.

† Length, 42ft. 6ins.; width, 15ft. 6ins.

Perrott-*cum*-Mosterton), A. C. H. Earle (Mapperton), R. H. Gundry (Melpash), J. L. Templer (Corscombe-*cum*-Toller Whelme), R. Usher (Netherbury), W. F. Rickman (Poorstock), G. C. Hutchings (Broadwindsor), F. S. Stockdale (Chedington), A. A. Leonard (Beaminster), P. A. Hippisley-Smith, Curate of Beaminster, P. T. P. Knott, Curate of Broadwindsor, and W. D. Sargeaunt—Workhouse Chaplain—(Stoke Abbott).

Following the Service tea was provided in the Dining-hall in which room Sunday services had been previously conducted.

The total cost of the work including the Chapel fittings was about £200.

In addition to monetary gifts Lady Peto presented the altar frontal, Mrs. Cox (Manor House) the carpet, and Mrs. J. Lane Kitson two brass candlesticks. The brass cross and vases given by the Rev. A. J. Kitson were formerly in the Bishop's Hostel, Lincoln.

A later gift was the small brass lectern, also an *Altar Service*, in which is inscribed—

“ This Lectern and Book—Presented to the Union Chapel, Beaminster, in loving memory of Sarah Canterbury, at rest September 4th, 1910.”

On the west wall of the building a brass tablet has been placed bearing the following inscription—

“ To the Honour and Glory of God
and for the Benefit of His Servants
dwelling in this house

This Chapel

Constructed and fitted up mainly by public subscription
was dedicated on July 29th, 1907
by John, Bishop of Salisbury,
as a place wholly set apart for Divine Service,
at the request of the Guardians of the Union
desiring to be found faithful stewards
of their Master's gifts.”

EXTRACTS FROM “ PAUPER OFFENCE BOOK.”

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Offence.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Punishment Inflicted by</i>
		1842	<i>Master or other Officer.</i>
Elliott, Benjamin	Neglect of work	31 May	Dinner withheld, and but bread for supper.
Rowe, Sarah	Noisy and swearing	19 June	Lock'd up 24 hours on bread and water.
Aplin, John	Disorderly at Prayer time	22 July	Lock'd up 12 hours on bread and water.
Mintern, George	Fighting in school	26 July	No cheese for one week.

<i>Name.</i>	<i>Offence.</i>	<i>Date.</i>	<i>Punishment Inflicted by Master or other Officer.</i>
Dunn, William	Neglect of work and Disorderly at Prayer time	1842 14 Nov.	Kept on bread and potatoes 48 hours.
Payne, Priscella	Swearing and refusing to work	23 Nov.	Lock'd up for 24 hours.
Greenham, Mary and Payne, Priscella	Quarelling and fighting	14th Dec.	No meat 1 week.
	" "	" "	" "
Bartlett, Mary	Breaking window	1843 21 Mar.	Sent to prison for 2 mths.
Park, James	Deserted, got over wall	4 Sep.	To be whipped.
		1844	
Meadway, Thomas	Throwing his breakfast at the School-master	12 Feb.	Kept without a dinner and sent to prison.
Hallett, Isaac	Breaking Window	25 April	Sent to prison for 2 months hard labour.
		1848	
Symes, John, Junr.	Swearing in Chapel [Dining-hall]	21 Feby.	Lock'd up 11 hours.
Palmer, John	Deserted over the wall	30 Oct.	Got 10 lashes.
		1854	
Dunn, Saml.	Idleness	6 Jany.	Bread & water 24 hours.
		1856	
Staple, John	Refusing to work	7 Jany.	Committed to prison for 28 days.
		1858	
Johnson John	Refusing to work	19 Oct.	Cheese & tea stop'd for supper. Breakfast stop'd altogether.
		1863	
Soaper, Elizabeth	Making use of bad language in bedroom. Trying to excite other inmates to insubordination. Refusing to work	17 Jany.	Taken before the Magistrate & committed to prison for 14 days with hard labour.

MEMO : Left the house next morning after having given due notice.

Note by the Chairman of the Guardians. " Would not 28 days be better ?—J.F."

There is no entry in the book later than March 3rd, 1869.

Do not the few entries the writer has selected stand as silent witnesses of the life inside the Union House not so long ago ? During recent years a great change has taken place within the Workhouse. To-day the comfort of the inmates is considered in a manner unknown during times past, for the present Master and Matron, following the good lead of their immediate predecessors, have done their utmost to add to the homeliness of the Institution.

How much longer Union Workhouses—as we know them—will continue, time alone must tell. It may be that a sweeping change is imminent, for the report of the Royal Commission recently issued, unanimously condemned the " principles of 1834."

The Old Age Pension scheme will no doubt materially lessen the number of applicants for indoor relief, and the

Workhouse become—as even now to a great extent it is—a District Infirmary.

CHAPLAINS.

- 1838. Rev. Thomas Ansell—A resident of Stoke Abbott.
- 1857. Rev. C. J. Pratt Forster—Rector of Stoke Abbott.
- 1859. Rev. Thomas Ansell (re-appointed).
- 1876. Rev. Thomas Peters—Vicar of Burstock.
- 1883. Rev. W. Gildea—Vicar of Netherbury.
- 1901. Rev. W. D. Sargeaunt—Rector of Stoke Abbott.
- 1911. Rev. A. A. Leonard—Vicar of Beaminster.
- 1912. Rev. G. C. Hutchings—Vicar of Beaminster.

The Chaplain's salary from the date of the first appointment has been £50 *per annum*.

MASTERS AND MATRONS.

- 1838. Mr. and Mrs. R. Guppy.*
- 1842. Mr. John Day† and Sarah Chard.
- 1849. Mr. and Mrs. William Clark.
- 1853. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cornish Geyle.
- 1855. Mr. and Mrs. Helsdon (two months only).
- 1855. Mr. and Mrs. John Williams.
- 1860. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wotton.
- 1879. Mr. and Mrs. William Pearce.
- 1886. Mr. and Mrs. John Bennett Cox.
- 1892. Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Crosland.
- 1897. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Andrews.

* Formerly Master and Matron of "Gilbert Adams" Workhouse.

† Formerly Master of the Broadwindsor Workhouse.

Chapter XXV.

TITHES. AGRICULTURE. POPULATION.

TITHES.



THE Commutation of the Tithes of the Parish of Beaminster for a yearly rent charge in pursuance of the *Tithe Act*, 1836,* was effected by Articles of Agreement made and executed at a Parochial Meeting of Landowners and Tithe-owners held in Beaminster on the 10th June, 1841, and confirmed by the Tithe Commissioners for England and Wales in 1842. The Parties to this Agreement were—

(1) The Hon. and Rev. Frederick Pleydell Bouverie, who, as Canon or Prebendary of Netherbury in Ecclesia otherwise Beaminster Parsonatus in the Cathedral Church of Sarum, was then appropriator of all the tithes of corn and grain accruing within the said parish and also Patron of the Living of Beaminster.

(2) The Rev. Benjamin Parsons Symons, D.D., and the Hon. Duncombe Pleydell Bouverie, the lessees for lives of the said appropriate tithes under the said Prebendary.

(3) The Executors of Robert Conway, of Netherbury, who held a sub-lease of the appropriate tithes.

(4) The Rev. William James Brookland, who as Vicar of Beaminster was owner of all the tithes of the parish, except tithes of corn and grain.

(5) The several persons, owners of land in the parish, by whom or by whose Agents the Articles were executed and whose interest was not less than two-thirds of all the lands in the parish subject to tithes.

* Prior to the passing of this Act tithes were paid in kind ; this accounts for the many commodious Tithe Barns still existing, which were erected for the purpose of storing a tenth part of the produce of the land, principally grain.

The Beaminster Tithe Barn adjoined " Knowle Cottage " in Short's Lane ; it was destroyed by fire on Nov. 5th, 1899.

By these Articles it was agreed that the following yearly rent charges should be payable (subject to the provisions of the *Tithe Act*) instead of tithes and of moduses or customary payments—

	£	s.	d.
To the Vicar	300	0	0
To the Appropriator (or his Lessees)	220	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£520	0	0
	<hr/>		

A Schedule to the Articles shews the then cultivation or state of the lands in the parish to have been as follows—

	A.	R.	P.
Arable	1137	1	20
Meadow and Pasture	3606	1	19*
Orchard	136	1	21
Woodland	124	2	10
Homesteads and Gardens	40	0	0
Roads, Waters and Waste Lands	74	1	39
	<hr/>		
	45119	0	29†
	<hr/>		

The Schedule also shews that at the time of the commutation the following moduses,‡ compositions or customary payments were payable to the Vicar in lieu of certain tithes, *viz.*—

A modus of 1s. for every acre of grass or meadow land mowed in lieu of the tithe thereof.

A modus of 1s. for every hogshead of cider made from apples grown in the parish in lieu of the tithes of such apples.

A modus of 1s. for every milch cow in lieu of the tithe of milk and calf of such cow.

The valuers appointed to apportion the total rent charge agreed upon as above amongst the several lands of the parish were John Symonds, of Broadwindsor, and Levi Luckham, of Radipole, Dorset.

In many parishes an entire rent charge is set upon each holding, with the result that on any holding becoming

* This seems to include Beaminster Down, which, according to the Tithe Commutation Apportionment, contained 131a. or. 2p.

† The Tithe Apportionment gives the extent of the Parish as 5118a. 3r. 39p.

‡ A Modus was a composition made before the time of legal memory (*i.e.* before the reign of Richard I) whereby the landowners agreed to pay the parson for the time being for ever a certain sum of money or other thing in lieu of tithe.

divided between two or more owners a re-apportionment of the rent charge is necessary. But in Beaminster a separate amount is set upon every field and garden except such gardens as are exempted. In most instances the rent charge on arable land and orchards is something like 6s. per acre, and that on pasture land about 1s. per acre. An unusual and convenient feature of the Beaminster apportionment is that no field or holding (as set out in the apportionment) is charged with both Vicarial and Improprate tithe rent charge, but some lands are chargeable to the Vicar and other lands to the Improprator.

It was provided by the *Tithe Act*, 1836, that every tithe rent charge at the time of the confirmation of the apportionment should be deemed to be of the value of such quantities of wheat, barley and oats as the same would purchase in case one-third part thereof were laid out in wheat, another third part in barley, and the remaining third part in oats, each at the average price for the seven years ended Christmas, 1835. These average prices were afterwards ascertained to be 7s. 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ d., 3s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 2s. 9d. per bushel respectively. At these prices £520 (the gross amount of the rent charge agreed upon as before mentioned) would, if divided into equal thirds as directed by the Act, have purchased approximately 493 $\frac{3}{4}$ bushels Wheat, 875 $\frac{3}{4}$ bushels Barley and 1,260 $\frac{1}{2}$ bushels Oats as certified in the Valuers' Award. The sum of money payable in each year in respect of the rent charge was to consist of the price of the same quantities of wheat, barley and oats respectively, according to the average prices for the seven years ended at the next preceding Christmas, and the averages have varied as follows—

	Year.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Value of £100 T.R.C.	Value of £520 T.R.C.
Highest	1875	6/10 $\frac{3}{4}$	4/11	3/2 $\frac{1}{4}$	£112 15 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	£586 9 0
Lowest	1901	3/4 $\frac{1}{4}$	3/0 $\frac{1}{2}$	2/0 $\frac{3}{4}$	£66 10 9 $\frac{1}{4}$	£346 0 0
Latest	1914	4/1	3/3 $\frac{3}{4}$	2/4 $\frac{1}{4}$	£75 16 4	£394 4 11

Of the original Improprate Tithe rent charge of £220 before referred to, £33 14s. 6d. (payable out of Coombe Down Farm and certain other lands) was in or about 1850 given up by the Hon. and Rev. F. P. Bouverie, the then Prebendary and owner of the great tithes, towards the endowment of the Chapel of Ease of Holy Trinity, then in course of erection; thus practically reducing the Im-

propriate rent charge to £166 5s. 6d. (present value £126 1s. 3d.), and increasing the Vicarial rent charge (so long as a separate district is not assigned to the Chapelry) to £333 14s. 6d. (present value, £253 os. 4d.).

In or about 1857 the Improprate Tithe rent charge became vested in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

In 1858 and 1861 these Commissioners made grants (confirmed by Orders in Council) out of their common fund of £9 and £17 (together, £26) per annum in augmentation of the Living of Beaminster, but on the purchase by the Commissioners in 1867 of land containing 1a. or. 9p., with buildings thereon, adjoining the Parsonage House (which land and buildings were annexed to the Living by Instrument published in the *London Gazette* of 9th July, 1867) the £26 was reduced to £8 3s. od. In 1908 a further grant of £50 per annum was made by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in augmentation of the income of the Cure with special reference to its local claims.

AGRICULTURE.

Agricultural depression in recent years has to a great extent extinguished that most useful class of men, the Yeomen, many of whom had to sell their lands to provide capital for the carrying on of the farming industry. His place has been taken by a different class of men represented by the tenant farmer, hospitable, nevertheless, as were his predecessors.

“ If you in Do’set be a-roamèn,
 An’ ha’ business at a farm,
 Then woont ye zee your eàle a-foamèn !
 Or your cider down to warm ?
 Woont ye have brown bread a-put ye,
 An’ some vinny cheese a-cut ye ?
 Butter ? rolls o’t !
 Cream ?—why bowls o’t !
 Woont ye have, in short, your vill,
 A-gi’ed wi’ a right good will ? ”

The up-to-date farmer of to-day is a keen practical man ; and although these are early days of technical instruction, farming on scientific lines is becoming more and more apparent. Just a few remain who are guided in the many branches of their business by the prognostications of *Raphæl*, *Zadkiel*, or *Old Moore*.

Never before has the agricultural labourer been so well paid, his lot has in every way improved; he is better housed, better fed, and does less work.

In the year 1370 the pay of farm labourers in Dorset was twopence a day. In 1425 they received fourpence a day, and tenpence per acre for mowing grass. In 1790 the wages averaged six shillings a week, but during hay-making and harvest the pay was one shilling and sixpence a day in addition to one quart of cider.

"The passing of the *Poor Law* in 1849 was responsible for the change in the rate of labourers' pay. Prior to that time the outdoor relief induced the farmer to pay on the lowest scale he could, knowing full well that the parish would come to the aid of the poor labourer."*

It is difficult in these days of plenty to realize the want and misery of the labourer during the "hungry forties" and earlier years, when he toiled a long day to earn the price of a single loaf of bread. With nearly every article of food at famine price, the pinch of poverty was keenly felt in the cottages when the mid-day meal consisted of baked barley-cake, horse beans, and a platter of boiled swedes. A small Sunday joint was then unknown, and the luxury of "a bit of bull-beef at Christmas"—a Parnham dole—regarded as an event of the year. But all this has changed, for now there are no really destitute poor in the parish.

Mr. George Chambers of Weybridge, one of an old Beaminster family, informed the writer that about the time of the repeal of the *Corn Laws*† many Irish peasants, driven from their homes by the potato famine, invaded Dorset. He said, "My grandfather was one of the overseers of the parish of Beaminster, and families numbering from eight to twelve came most days and stood in front of his house, until each had received a pound of bread provided out of the rates. Then the poor people were marched off, with their children to the old disused workhouse‡ in East street, where they spent the night upon straw strewn over the floor."

* * * * *

* The *Victoria History of Dorset*.

† 1846.

‡ There was a room about 20 feet square behind the schoolroom called the "Tramp House."

Dorchester Corn Market quotations April 2nd, 1831—Wheat, 60s. to 76s. Barley, 34s. to 40s. Oats, 24s. to 27s. Beans, 40s. to 45s. per quarter.

In 1834 six Dorset labourers of the village of Tolpuddle, dissatisfied with their wages and low condition of life, banded themselves together and formed a "Union," with the object of preventing those wages, which were then seven shillings a week, being further reduced to six!

For this "crime" the men were arrested and tried at the Dorchester assizes, and sentenced by Mr. Justice Williams to seven years' transportation to Botany Bay!

These men are known to history as "The Tolpuddle Martyrs." On April 21st, 1834, a great meeting took place at Copenhagen Fields in London, for the purpose of carrying a petition, bearing over a quarter of a million signatures to the Home Secretary, praying for a remission of the sentence. It is stated that 30,000 persons took part in the procession.

Lord Melbourne refused to receive any "petition presented under such circumstances and in such a manner," though if it should be "presented on another day and in a becoming manner" he would receive it and lay it before the King. In the meantime the question had been taken up in the House of Commons, and numerous petitions were presented. In spite of the agitation, however, the punishment was not remitted until 1836, and the convicts did not finally return home until 1838.

About this time female labour in the fields was common, and boys started work at six or seven years of age. In 1870 the compulsory *Education Act* prohibited the employment of lads under ten years. The age limit has now been further raised, and the employment of women labourers has almost disappeared.

It may be of interest in these days of Old Age Pensions to look back at a period anterior to the "hungry forties," when with low wages and dear food the pinch of poverty was a stern reality. The following extracts are from one of the Parish books—

1795, June 14th. "At a Meeting of us whose Names are underwritten, Subscribers to the Fund for reducing the Price of Bread to the necessitous poor, it is resolved that the said Fund shall be employed exclusively in Aid of the Poor Inhabitants of this parish



BEAMINSTER OLD COTTAGERS.

(By permission of the Editor of *Country Home*).

without any participation with the general subscription raised in the County, and that for the Space of One Fortnight from the date hereof Bread shall be sold to the necessitous poor Inhabitants of the parish at the following Prices, *viz.* Standard Wheaten Bread at 15*d.* the half-peck Loaf, and Household Bread at 13*d.* the half-peck Loaf. Prices shall be made good out of the said Fund.

It is also resolved that no Person shall have the Benefit of buying Bread at the Prices above mentioned except those whose Names are entered in a List made for the purpose and approved by us."

(Signed by eight Ratepayers).

June 28th. Price raised to 16*d.*

July 12th. "Robert Barfoot was ordered to purchase for the use of the poor twenty Loads of Wheat at the cost of the ratepayers. This was not done, but Robert Barfoot purchased on his own account One hundred quarters of Wheat, which in consequence of pecuniary assistance received from several principal Inhabitants, proposes to sell to the Bakers of this parish only, Twenty-four Bags of Flour per Week—4 pence for each half-peck loaf to be allowed to each poor, on the condition that they purchase no greater number of loaves than has been before allowed to Each Family."

August 2nd. "Robert Barfoot agrees to sell to the Bakers of this Town only, 25 Bags of Flour per week, for the space of 5 weeks, on condition that the Bakers sell to the Inhabitants of the Town only. Bakers to furnish a list of every person who had bought bread & the quantity. Bakers to be charged Sixty-nine shillings per bag for flour, and they are to sell the Bread at one shilling and tenpence per $\frac{1}{2}$ peck loaf, the same being Standard Bread as described in the Act of Parliament. Three pence on each loaf to be allowed to the poor."

The allowance of 3*d.* on each loaf cost the ratepayers £5 a week.

In 1844 "At a meeting of the Inhabitants in the New School Room, East street, it was agreed that the Farmers do form themselves into a committee and arrange amongst themselves to take the able-bodied Agricultural labourers into their employ, and that Mr. John Cox, on part of the Town of Beaminster, should employ the other labourers,

and a subscription be raised amongst the Inhabitants of the Town to pay their labour."

The Notice, calling the meeting, dated November 30th, 1844, states that the objects of the assembly are "to consult on the subject of the employment of the Able bodied Poor of the Parish who now are, or during the Winter Months shall be out of employ, at adequate Wages; And Secondly, on the subject of raising a fund by way of subscription, with a View to the renting a convenient Field or Fields to be allotted and cultivated by and for the benefit of the poor and their families. . . ."

In 1849, £150 was raised by way of loan upon the rates for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the emigration of persons of the parish to Australia.

The following were approved by the Vestry as candidates for emigration at the *expense of the parish*.

George Daw, his wife and six children.

Thomas Bugler, his wife and six children.

John Newberry, his wife and five children.

POPULATION.

According to Hutchins, in the year 1775, there were in the town 390 houses, and 41 in the *out-parish*. The population at the time was 1708, *viz.* 776 males and 932 females; in the out-parish 130 males and 117 females, giving a total population of 1955.

Table of population of the Parish of Beaminster 1801-1911. Years 1801, 2,140; 1811, 2,290; 1821, 2,806; 1831, 2,968; 1841, 3,270; 1851, 2,832; 1861, 2,614; 1871, 2,585; 1881, 2,130; 1891, 1,915; 1901, 1,702; 1911, 1,860.

When the census was taken in 1901 the Beaminster Union district contained 4,446 males and 4,738 females. Total population, 9,184. Ten years later the population was 9,213.

As practical evidence of the migration which took place in the parish during the latter part of the last century, of those baptized at Beaminster from 1820 to 1838, who are still living, and now claiming pensions, *less than 20 per cent.* are resident in the parish.*

* *Parish Magazine*, December, 1908.

The continual exodus of our population to the crowded towns can only be deplored by all who love their native shire. When will the tide be turned?

May the time be not far distant when the people shall come back again to our depopulated neighbourhood, to our wooded slopes and flowery dales, from the great cities where the beauties of God's earth are but little known. Then will the days of prosperity return once more to the ancient "Minster amid the trees."

" Oh ! then there's nothèn' that's 'ithout
Thy hills that I do ho about,—
Noo bigger pleâce, noo gayër town,
Beyond thy sweet bells' dyèn soun',
As they do ring, or strike the hour,
At evenèn vrom thy wold red tow'r.
No : shelter still my head, an' keep
My bwones when I do vall asleep."

INDEX—PERSONS.

- ABBOTT, 124, 307.
 Abingdon, 261.
 Ackerman, 114, 124, 417.
 Adams, 49, 50, 77, 142, 157, 187, 196,
 197, 377, 379, 382, 385.
 Alexander, 328, 363, 364, 417.
 Aleyn, 40.
 Alfred the Great, 8, 12.
 Allen, 77, 125, 324, 383, 394, 395, 439.
 Ames, 169, 173, 174, 176, 282, 412.
 Andress, 148, 206, 421.
 Andrews, 148, 239, 240, 241, 393, 394,
 434, 442.
 Angel, 110, 400.
 Ansell, 442.
 Anzelack, 97.
 Aplin, 404, 440.
 Arden, 427.
 Arscott, 70.
 Ashe, 71.
 Atkins, 278, 296.
 Atkinson, 54.
 Attwood, 146.
 Austin, 107.
 Austin-Gourlay, 177.

 BADEN-POWELL, 302.
 Bagg, 282.
 Bagwell, 123, 124.
 Balshaw, 110.
 Baker, 199.
 Balston, 185.
 Bamfield *or* Bampfylde, 201, 222.
 Bandinel, 72, 74, 416, 421.
 Banger, 409.
 Barberini, 341.
 Bardsley, 199.
 Barfoot, 173, 282, 449.
 Barnes, 190, 233, 235.
 Barnicott, 115.
 Barratt *or* Barrett, 123, 124, 132, 173,
 244, 278, 307, 356, 363, 385, 410, 417.
 Barter, 261, 419.
 Bartlett *or* Bartelot, 78, 81, 282, 284,
 309, 362, 391, 441.
 Baskett, 240, 241, 283.
 Bastard, 185.
 Bathurst, 217.
 Batten, 123.
 Baxter, 301.
 Bayly, 179, 245.
 Beach, 111, 115, 126.

 Beale, 439.
 Beament, 75, 207, 241, 380.
 Bean, 132.
 Beckford, 351.
 Bedgood, 123.
 Beecher, 105.
 Beere, 124.
 Beesley, Son, and Nichols, 431.
 Begbie, 78, 386.
 Bell, 257.
 Bellow, 41.
 Bennett, 78, 185, 387.
 Bernard, 176.
 Bess, 328.
 Bevan, 108.
 Bickersteth, 64, 67.
 Bilbie, 22, 23, 24, 185.
 Bingham, 217.
 Bird, 159, 162.
 Birt, 77, 78.
 Bishop, 97, 103, 104, 105, 111, 249, 277,
 279, 282, 284, 363.
 Blackla, 132.
 Blanchard, 78.
 Boel, 93.
 Boll, 342.
 Bolton, 107.
 Boodle, 78.
 Boon, 168.
 Booth, 245, 246.
 Boucher, 77, 212.
 Bouverie, 64, 70, 72, 443, 445.
 Bovet, 77.
 Bowditch, 309, 362, 417.
 Bowell, 132.
 Bowering, 124, 279.
 Bowles, 222.
 Boylen, 125.
 Bozie, 35, 123, 124, 131, 208.
 Bradford, 78.
 Bradshaw, 92.
 Brady, 64.
 Bragg, 71, 261, 263.
 Braybrok, 11.
 Brayne *or* Braine, 123, 125, 171, 313.
 Brenton, 77.
 Brett, 71, 347.
 Brice, 71, 73, 163, 164.
 Brickle, 221.
 Bridge *or* Bridges, 145, 146, 163, 164,
 279, 373.
 Bridger, 416.

- Brightric, 8.
 Brine, 377.
 Brinson, 55, 225, 261, 282, 362.
 Broadley, 216, 252, 336, 369, 377, 427.
 Brode, 70.
 Brodrepp, 50, 62, 159, 163, 166, 171, 262, 330, 348, 349.
 Brookland, 72, 112, 113, 443.
 Brooks, 241, 358.
 Broster, 237, 239, 240.
 Brown, 70, 77, 162, 179, 201, 261, 398.
 Bruce, 288.
 Brunel, 402.
 Bryant *or* Bryent, 77, 92, 95, 96, 306, 363.
 Buckingham, Duke of, 217, 333.
 Buckland, 123, 125.
 Buckler, 262.
 Bugler, 54, 107, 124, 132, 133, 168, 173, 244, 245, 261, 298, 299, 307, 358, 450.
 Bunn, 320.
 Bunt, 113.
 Burbidge, 132.
 Burd, 130.
 Burgis, 79.
 Burrell, 162.
 Bush, 123, 125.
 Busk, 204.
 Bussel, 191.
 Butcher, 173.
 Butler, 241.
 Butts, 252.
 Byron, 222.

 CADDY, 82, 261.
 Calamy, 89, 90.
 Camoens, 222.
 Canterbury *or* Cantelbury, 125, 186, 244, 245, 261, 326, 440.
 Canute, 8.
 Capel-Lofft, 222.
 Cardew, 77, 79.
 Carew, 70.
 Carnegie, 68.
 Carpenter, 354.
 Carsewell, 164.
 Carter, 309.
 Carver and Giles, 418.
 Cary, 222.
 Casali, 351.
 Castro, de, 78.
 Chaffey, 373, 374.
 Chaldecott, 217, 335.
 Chambers, 64, 116, 168, 309, 378, 380, 418, 424, 447.
 Champ, 110.
 Champion, 157, 186, 207, 331.
 Chapple, 417.
 Chard, 442.
 Charles, 186.
 Charles I, 355.
 Charles II, 217, 340, 346.
 Chatterton, 222.
 Chick, 64, 131, 170, 186, 261, 378, 380, 418.
 Chickly, 335.
 Chilcott, 201, 205, 327.

 Chiles, 201.
 Cholmondeley, Marquis of, 416.
 Chowne, 377.
 Chubb, 132, 225, 278, 282.
 Churchill, 162, 183.
 Clare, 125, 132, 142, 162, 237, 261, 282.
 Clark *or* Clarke, 37, 38, 39, 40, 46, 69, 79, 107, 123, 124, 157, 166, 173, 278, 279, 325, 376, 442.
 Claridge, 303, 304.
 Clavell, 124.
 Clay, 308.
 Clifford, 162.
 Clift, 277, 282, 358.
 Cloud, 22, 23, 80, 123, 124, 132, 135, 245, 325.
 Cockey, 319.
 Cocks, 416.
 Codd, 27, 59, 63, 65, 67, 72, 75, 147, 177, 178, 197, 198, 212, 252, 332, 377, 378, 380, 383, 393.
 Cogger, 162.
 Coker, 243, 334, 380.
 Cole, 77, 166, 282.
 Coleridge, 222.
 Coles, 77, 212.
 Colfox, 123, 125, 179, 204, 261.
 Collant *or* Collent, 32, 48, 164.
 Collingdon, 263.
 Collins, 125, 328.
 Coltman, 149.
 Combe, 164, 176, 189, 201, 348.
 Comeland, 40.
 Compton, 252, 348, 350, 377, 378, 379, 392.
 Conway, 48, 79, 102, 104, 107, 123, 124, 125, 131, 132, 160, 162, 164, 167, 173, 277, 278, 307, 308, 314, 316, 356, 443.
 Cooke, 77, 124, 171, 174, 183, 209, 262, 277, 278, 356.
 Coombs, 29, 177, 199, 232, 234, 240, 282, 308, 311, 312, 317, 378, 383, 407, 416.
 Cooper, 431.
 Coram, 108, 109, 394, 423.
 Cornish, 162.
 Corriggio, 342.
 Cosby, 231.
 Couchman, 296.
 Courtney, 216, 218.
 Cousins, 261.
 Coventry, Lord, 336.
 Coward, 100, 107, 277, 363, 430.
 Cowley, 217.
 Cox, 3, 8, 9, 34, 39, 44, 52, 53, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 66, 68, 77, 90, 92, 93, 94, 95, 102, 103, 123, 124, 131, 132, 136, 137, 145, 147, 148, 150, 151, 168, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 181, 183, 187, 188, 189, 192, 193, 194, 206, 212, 213, 215, 223, 234, 240, 241, 244, 245, 246, 257, 260, 261, 262, 263, 265, 277, 278, 279, 281, 282, 283, 284, 287, 294, 299, 303, 304, 305, 307, 314, 315, 316, 317, 320, 350, 351, 352, 353, 356, 358, 362, 363, 376, 377, 378, 380, 383, 386, 387, 388, 390, 392, 393, 404, 405, 406, 407,

Cox—*continued*.

408, 409, 410, 415, 416, 417, 419, 420,
423, 424, 426, 429, 435, 437, 438, 440, 442.
Crabb, 71, 73, 78, 79, 88, 90, 123, 124,
125, 324, 327, 357, 374, 376, 380.

Crandon, 260.

Crane, 91, 92, 111, 159.

Crocker, 117, 209, 374, 399, 401, 421.

Crode, 282.

Croker, 378.

Cromwell, 80, 122, 155, 217, 341.

Crosland, 442.

Crowter, 125, 324.

Crutwell, 77.

Cullingford, 296, 298, 299.

Curtis, 261.

Cutler, 356.

DAGGLE, 243, 324.

Dahl, 218.

Dale, 338.

Damett, 123, 124, 125, 185.

Damner, 162.

Daniel, 35, 43, 74, 78, 79, 80, 81, 91, 92,
93, 94, 95, 96, 102, 111, 124, 136, 148,
165, 166, 177, 187, 189, 192, 206, 213,
234, 244, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251,
252, 261, 278, 279, 282, 291, 307, 309,
329, 330, 356, 357, 358, 378, 383, 416,
429, 430.

Davis, 273, 275, 278, 293.

Davy, 282, 307, 308, 387, 417, 432.

Daw *or* Dawe, 131, 450.

Day, 57, 58, 66, 132, 173, 262, 308, 355,
387, 437, 442.

Dean, 131, 132.

Deedes, 72, 379, 417.

Demat, 132, 207, 208.

Dening, 124.

Denison, 420.

Dennett, 282.

Dent, 78, 79, 123, 125, 185.

Derby, 55, 79, 121, 184.

Devenish, 101, 261.

Dickinson, 77, 204.

Digby, 204, 378, 390, 391.

Dimmat, 225.

Dobson, 329.

Dodsworth, 417.

Dogrill, 123, 125.

Doling, 356.

Domenichino, 341.

Doughty, 218.

Doun, 245.

Dowdeswell, 146, 417.

Dowel, 132.

Downen, 162.

Downs, 162.

Drew, 106, 143.

Drewitt, 92.

Dryden, 217, 222.

Duckworth, 426.

Dumaresque, 72.

Dunell, 207.

Dunn, 29, 35, 131, 132, 212, 261, 309, 315,
378, 379, 421, 426, 441.

Dunning, 35, 86, 189, 245, 277.

Durant, 101.

Dyce, 222.

Dyke, 282, 371.

EARLE, 77, 400, 440.

Ebdon, 374.

Edmonds, 71.

Edwards, 241, 287.

Eldon, Earl of, 379.

Ellery, 88.

Elliott, 86, 132, 261, 417, 440.

Ellis, 185, 324.

Emery, 296, 298.

England, 92.

Ethelbald, 8.

Ethelbert, 8.

Ethelred, 8.

Euripides, 222.

Evan *or* Evans, 77, 79, 185, 375, 383.

Eveleigh, 22, 35, 128, 136, 168, 189, 208,
256, 263, 278, 282, 429.

Evelyn, 217, 218.

Everett, 282.

Ewell, 141.

Ewens, 123, 125, 279.

FAIRFAX, 121, 122.

Farquharson, 411.

Farr, 262, 263, 282.

Farwell, 262.

Fawcett, 96, 97, 110.

Feaver, 77, 131.

Feetham, 352.

Ferguson, 242.

Filden, 125.

Finch, 336.

Fitz James, 92.

Fitz Osborn, 339.

Fitzroy, 203, 340.

Fisher, 104.

Fletcher, 185, 242, 384, 385.

Flint, 112.

Flood, 56, 57, 70, 72, 75, 77, 320, 415, 416.

Floyer, 164, 330, 379, 417.

Follett, 289, 417.

Fookes, 124, 125, 261.

Foot, 262.

Ford, 82, 123, 124, 184, 185, 261, 374.

Forster, 131, 381, 442.

Forward, 416.

Fosbrooke, 145, 368.

Foss, 231, 232.

Fowler, 132, 215, 261, 279, 282.

Fox, 60, 74, 77, 102, 123, 149, 150, 168,
171, 187, 212, 239, 262, 265, 268, 282,
312, 348, 356, 415, 416, 420, 429, 430.

Foy, 121.

Francis, 377.

Franland, 162.

Frampton, 149, 150, 307, 308, 317, 321,
331, 335, 363, 388, 391, 417.

Freeman, 358, 380.

French, 125.

Froome, 312.

Fry, 282.

Furmedge, 58, 206, 392, 438.
 Furser, 185.
 Fussell, 421.

GAIGER, 263.
 Gainger, 309.
 Gale, 84, 85, 87, 132, 173, 285, 325, 328,
 356, 383, 417.
 Galpin, 176, 278, 362, 417.
 Game, 210.
 Gange, 373.
 Gardner, 63, 212, 214, 245, 285, 286, 411,
 417.
 Garrett, 363.
 Gerrard, 94, 125, 173, 185, 245, 261, 282,
 294, 306, 335, 341, 346, 421.
 Geyle, 442.
 Ghent, Simon of, 82.
 Gibbs, 125, 132, 282, 289, 292.
 Gifford, 53, 102, 188, 386.
 Gilbert, 107, 379, 397, 416, 420.
 Gildea, 75, 178, 442.
 Gill, 205, 251, 279, 373.
 Gillam *or* Gilham, 261.
 Gillingham, 80, 125, 171, 206, 261.
 Godwyn, 71.
 Goldsworthy, 278.
 Gollop, 121, 125, 177, 325.
 Good, 287, 288.
 Goodden, 78, 302, 400.
 Goold *or* Gould, 23, 84, 102, 379, 417.
 Gorge, 13.
 Gouge, 261, 262.
 Goulding, 159, 163, 164, 307.
 Gover, 79, 324.
 Gower, 89.
 Glisson, 201, 262.
 Grant, 193, 416.
 Gray, 3, 40, 44, 416.
 Greaves, 106.
 Green, 8, 309, 377.
 Greenham, 329, 395, 441.
 Greenway, 159, 160, 161.
 Grenville, 219.
 Grey, 242, 243.
 Griffith, 162.
 Grinter, 124, 125, 261.
 Grosart, 222.
 Groze, 136.
 Gudge, 79, 261.
 Gundy, 162, 188, 261, 262, 416, 440.
 Guppy, 86, 176, 261, 396, 400, 437, 442.
 Gurney, 416.
 Guy, 149, 357.
 HAKE, 278.
 Hall, 179.
 Hall Caine, 222.
 Hallett, 32, 48, 56, 78, 79, 114, 123, 124,
 125, 132, 133, 147, 171, 173, 186, 187,
 215, 245, 261, 265, 277, 308, 312, 314,
 325, 387, 441.
 Halsey, 41.
 Hamilton, 29, 66, 67, 146, 202, 252, 282,
 307, 377.
 Hamlyn, 70.

Hammond, 77.
 Hann, 64, 148, 156, 173, 205, 240, 241,
 282, 287, 290, 298, 312, 347, 378, 380,
 383, 395, 424.
 Hansford, 282.
 Harbin, 77, 171, 176.
 Hardcastle, 426.
 Hardman, 59.
 Hardwicke, 77.
 Hardy, 54, 261, 437.
 Harford, 78.
 Harrington, 70.
 Harris, 22, 24, 189, 204, 278, 279, 363.
 Harrison, 282.
 Hart, 58, 124, 125, 172, 261.
 Hartland, 262.
 Hatkins, 173, 282.
 Hawker, 292, 373.
 Hawkins, 379, 416.
 Hay, 63, 72, 74, 134, 342, 345, 416,
 417.
 Hayward, 79, 261, 292, 306, 374, 437.
 Hearn, 22, 24, 149, 159, 162, 163, 164,
 220, 245, 261, 279, 282, 306, 307, 325,
 407, 428.
 Hele, 68.
 Hellier, 261.
 Helsdon, 442.
 Hems, 21.
 Hemygly, 11.
 Hengham, 142.
 Henessey, 385.
 Henly *or* Henley, 34, 121.
 Henman, 70, 71.
 Herdsman, 97.
 Hervy *or* Harvey, 11, 97.
 Hesding, 347.
 Hide, 132, 324.
 Hile, 289.
 Hill, 107, 198, 292, 324.
 Hillary, 32, 37, 38, 39, 43, 48, 56, 157,
 186, 205, 214, 215, 261.
 Himlin, 327.
 Hine, 82, 97, 98, 100, 101, 102, 104, 105,
 107, 143, 152, 177, 194, 207, 224, 237,
 238, 239, 240, 241, 249, 278, 282, 285,
 286, 288, 290, 298, 299, 300, 204, 307,
 324, 359, 383, 387, 417, 422, 426.
 Hinton, 380.
 Hippiisley-Smith, 78, 440.
 Hiron, 263.
 Hitt, 33, 48, 78, 92, 93, 94, 124, 125, 128,
 163, 205, 211, 287.
 Hoare, 87, 92, 93, 94, 133, 244, 245, 282,
 286.
 Hodder, 79, 124, 125, 185, 186.
 Hodges, 379, 430.
 Hody, 334.
 Holden, 77, 416.
 Holditch, 65, 67.
 Hole, 431.
 Holland, 241.
 Hollis, 223.
 Holt, 132, 308.
 Holwill, 241.
 Honey, 114.

Hood, 54, 124, 157, 158, 159, 161, 162, 163, 164, 170, 171, 176, 218, 220, 261, 427.
 Hoop, 201.
 Hooper, 261, 374, 376.
 Hopkins, 34, 78, 98, 278.
 Horsey, 353.
 Horsford, 78, 79, 132.
 Hoskins, 43, 51, 53, 92, 93, 123, 124, 125, 131, 132, 133, 136, 170, 171, 184, 186, 191, 192, 201, 219, 245, 261, 306, 323, 325, 329, 330, 354, 360, 361, 429.
 Hounsell, 287, 290.
 Housman, 377.
 How, 179, 181, 299.
 Howard, 383.
 Howley, 222.
 Hull, 204.
 Humphry, 327.
 Hunt, 124, 125, 308, 374.
 Hutchings, 72, 77, 153, 335, 339, 440, 442.
 Hutchins, 12, 184, 200, 219, 221, 259, 261, 313, 347, 360.
 ILCHESTER, Earl of, 302, 388, 389, 390, 416.
 Iliff, 369.
 Inman, 257.
 Ireland, 33, 48, 79, 282, 329.
 Ironside, 71, 261.
 Isaack, 162.
 Ives, 297.
 JACKSON, 78.
 James, 46, 185, 255.
 Jefford, 287, 288.
 Jefferys, 137, 171, 173, 246, 247, 351, 357.
 Jenkins, 338.
 Jennings, 435.
 Jephson, 78.
 Jessop, 79, 89.
 Jolliffe, 149, 261.
 Johnson, 101.
 Jones, 77, 79, 132, 171, 185, 262.
 Joy, 430.
 Judson, 101.
 KAYLEWAY, 335.
 Keate, 32, 48, 79, 92, 118, 123, 124, 157, 208, 314, 331.
 Keddle, 67, 68, 79, 180, 181, 212, 213, 252, 377, 379, 416, 417.
 Keech, 93, 131, 132, 143, 261, 287, 321, 331.
 Kellaway, 282.
 Kelway, 235.
 Kemp, 61.
 Kent, Duchess of, 388, 389, 390.
 Ketch, Jack, 357.
 Keynes, 101.
 Kiddle, 263, 322.
 King, 325, 358, 400.
 King Edward VII Address to, 399.
 " " Coronation, 397, 425.
 " " Death of, 399.
 King George V, Coronation, 400.

Kinglake, 359.
 Kitson, 148, 197, 198, 206, 207, 223, 240, 241, 256, 262, 291, 292, 293, 296, 299, 300, 379, 393, 394, 395, 399, 420, 421, 426, 433, 440.
 Knight, 379.
 Knott, 440.
 LACK or LACKE, 46, 80, 123, 124, 324, 327.
 Lamb, 97, 278.
 Lambert, 379.
 Landor, 222.
 Lane, 79, 218, 308, 356, 402, 405, 406, 408, 409.
 Langfield, 77.
 Larcum or Larcombe, 132, 290, 298, 357.
 Larwood, 365.
 Lathey, 374.
 Laud, Archbishop, 88.
 Lavance, 80, 107, 186.
 Lavender, 358.
 Law, 232, 262.
 Lawrence, 261, 279, 374, 397.
 Laxton, 252.
 Lea, 159.
 Leakey, 185.
 Lear, 29.
 Leaves, 126, 215.
 Lee, 377.
 Legg or Legge, 146, 148, 181, 182, 199, 239, 240, 241, 261, 275, 421.
 Leigh, 175, 204, 209, 240, 241, 383, 388, 421.
 Leland, 15.
 Lely, 218, 341.
 Leonard, 30, 36, 68, 72, 75, 76, 178, 182, 198, 204, 206, 394, 396, 398, 400, 421, 423, 424, 426, 440, 442.
 Lester, 377.
 Le Vieux, 52, 188, 306.
 Lewis, 32, 35, 77.
 Lincole, 185.
 Little, 78.
 Littleton, 258.
 Lock, 78, 125, 215, 326, 409.
 Locker, 153.
 Loder, 164.
 Lodge, 373.
 Loggan, 218, 262.
 Long, 85, 329.
 Loss, 73.
 Lowe, 252.
 Luckham, 444.
 Ludlam, 178.
 Lush, 78, 251, 379.
 Lydford, 159.
 MABBLE, 70.
 Macaulay, 242, 246.
 Macdonald, 432.
 Macey, 177.
 Mac Hale, 358.
 Main, 222.
 Majendie, 379.
 Major, 299.
 Malan, 2, 252, 377.
 Manning, 380.

Maniford, 201.
 Mansel, 289, 294, 300.
 Mansfield, 261.
 Marden, 134.
 Marryat, 379.
 Marsh *or* March, 5, 6, 132, 144, 171, 173,
 188, 292, 308, 358, 417, 422.
 Martin, 123, 124, 125, 405, 406, 410.
 Mash, 282.
 Maskell, 63, 103, 416.
 Mason, 43, 55, 123.
 Maunder, 241, 282.
 Maurice, Prince, 118, 122.
 " Petition to, 119.
 May, 386.
 Maynard, 245, 377.
 Maxwell, 279.
 McDowell, 377.
 Meadway, 132, 307, 441.
 Meech *or* Meesh, 80, 124, 125, 132, 157,
 184, 245, 261, 263, 278, 282, 287, 298,
 308, 416, 424, 425, 426.
 Melbourne, Lord, 448.
 Meller, 78.
 Menzies, 110.
 Merifield, 47, 53, 54.
 Merryweather, 134.
 Metcalfe, 77.
 Miervelt, 342.
 Miller, 167, 185.
 Mills *or* Milles, 32, 38, 39, 48, 78, 123, 125,
 132, 163, 170, 172, 173, 185, 186, 188,
 192, 193, 205, 215, 282, 324, 329.
 Milton, 222, 223, 372.
 Milverton, 231, 363.
 Minifie, 125.
 Minson, 324.
 Mintern, 41, 78, 79, 123, 124, 125, 130,
 278, 325, 440.
 Mitchell, 289.
 Moion, 347.
 Molony, 78, 377.
 Monmouth, Duke of, 89, 91, 242, 329,
 336, 338, 351.
 Montague, 239, 289.
 Monte Alto, 142.
 Moor, 78, 101.
 Moores, 325.
 Morey, 150.
 Morise, 164.
 Morgan, 86, 347, 348, 349, 350.
 Morren, 97.
 Morres *or* Morris, 77, 186, 289, 377, 379.
 Mullins, 137, 299.
 Mundy, 436.
 NAPOLEON, 248, 281, 284, 285, 407.
 Napper, 40.
 Nash, 340, 341, 342, 344, 345, 346.
 Neal, 282.
 Neave, 106, 107, 386.
 Nelson, Lord, 100, 220, 365.
 Nepean, 287.
 Nepho, 245.
 Nevill, 81.
 Newberry, 241, 450.

Newbrough, 159, 163, 164.
 Newman, 29, 43, 70, 123, 124, 208, 209,
 261, 262, 287, 291, 298, 320, 329, 357,
 395, 417, 432.
 Newshams and Ragg, 136, 137.
 Nichols, 387, 431.
 North, 380, 432.
 Nossiter, 80, 125, 131, 132.
 Nottly, 33, 48, 187, 261.
 Nourse, 77.
 ODBER, 49, 50.
 Oglander, 29, 59, 61, 64, 143, 152, 172,
 173, 174, 187, 189, 198, 202, 203, 212,
 224, 265, 278, 334, 339, 340, 341, 342,
 346, 378.
 Ogle, 10.
 Oke, 77.
 Oklie, 131.
 Oliver, 26, 34, 103, 133, 225, 278, 282,
 311, 312, 331.
 Orall, 79.
 Orange, Prince of, 253, 254, 255.
 Osborne, 199.
 Osmond, 11.
 Oxe, 176.
 Oxley, 241, 383, 384.
 PAINE, 324, 387, 441.
 Painter, 10, 33, 48, 79, 123, 124, 163.
 Palmer, 245, 441.
 Pardoe, 78.
 Parham, 377.
 Park, 173, 441.
 Parker, 125, 131, 132, 159, 162, 185.
 Parrington, 348.
 Parsons, 79, 186.
 Paske, 77.
 Paul *or* Pawle, 79, 282, 375, 380.
 Paulet, 335, 350.
 Paviott, 127, 215.
 Pavy, 129, 132, 167, 176.
 Peach, 19, 46.
 Pearce, 278, 279, 282, 442.
 Peaston, 44.
 Peckham, 43.
 Pembroke, Earl of, 340.
 Penne, Penny, *or* Pinney, 120, 125, 162,
 245, 262, 338, 416.
 Percote, 185.
 Perkins, 145.
 Perry, 373.
 Person, 79.
 Pester, 278, 282.
 Peters, 442.
 Peto, 294, 310, 426, 440.
 Petrarch, 222.
 Petty, 103, 104, 107, 249.
 Phelps, 185, 205, 282, 357.
 Philpe, 186.
 Pickard-Cambridge, 416.
 Pigot, 370.
 Pile, 241, 421.
 Pilley, 387.
 Pim, 241, 336.

- Pine, 69, 134, 207, 212, 241, 287, 363, 385, 400.
 Pinter, 46.
 Pitcher, 175.
 Pitfield, 275.
 Pitt, 210, 219.
 Pittman, 282, 283, 285, 417.
 Plater, 77.
 Pocock, 71.
 Pointer, 109, 396, 398.
 Pointz, 120.
 Polden, 124, 125.
 Pomery, 78, 82, 133.
 Ponsonby-Fane, 235, 236.
 Ponting, 77.
 Poole, 246, 282, 292, 296, 298.
 Pooley, 417.
 Pope, 125, 177, 218, 278, 279, 282, 416.
 Porter, 84, 308, 309, 314, 315, 316, 317, 391.
 Portman, 379, 411, 416, 426.
 Potter, 342.
 Powell, 78.
 Powley, 387.
 Pralin, Duke of, 342.
 Prater, 284.
 Prentis, 78.
 Pretor, 130.
 Price, 78, 162.
 Prideaux, 3.
 Prince, 103.
 Prince Albert, 396.
 Prince of Wales, 396.
 Pring, 77.
 Pritchard, 71.
 Proffitt, 199.
 Pugh, 77.
 Pulliblack, 439.
 Pulman, 7, 12, 67, 146, 177, 246, 369.
 Pulteney, 379, 416.
 Purchase, 185, 282.
 Purkis, 177, 178, 241.
 Purslow, 386.
 Purtey, 167.

 RALEIGH, Sir Walter, 346.
 Ralls, 2.
 Ramsay, 74, 415, 416.
 Randall, 106, 108, 393.
 Randolph, 78.
 Rawlins, 377, 379, 380.
 Rawlinson, 377.
 Raymond, 416.
 Rayne, 72, 73, 173, 189, 328.
 Raynell, 185.
 Reynolds *or* Reynolds, 82, 312.
 Read, 7, 77, 277, 282, 307, 308, 387.
 Reader, 250.
 Rendall *or* Rendle, 82, 107, 124, 173, 184, 185, 232, 278, 279, 282, 307, 327, 330.
 Rhodes, 77.
 Ricci, 342.
 Richards, 101, 123, 125, 132, 188.
 Richardson, 245.
 Richings, 72, 79, 212, 381.
 Rickman, 440.

 Ridgeway, 77.
 Rigden, 78, 396.
 Roberts, 113, 241, 262, 338.
 Robinson, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 316.
 Robson, 308, 370.
 Rodbard *or* Rodburd, 43, 123, 124.
 Rodber, 284.
 Rogers, 97, 98, 100, 143, 186, 201, 206, 207, 292.
 Rooke, 67.
 Rose, 245.
 Rowe, 153, 162, 440.
 Rowsell *or* Rousell, 78, 124, 261.
 Rupton, 141.
 Ruskin, 64.
 Russell, 8, 13, 33, 39, 48, 52, 58, 77, 89, 103, 123, 125, 184, 187, 189, 200, 204, 212, 221, 222, 223, 224, 229, 261, 262, 263, 265, 275, 278, 282, 285, 316, 317, 348, 351, 355, 356, 372, 389, 390, 391, 402, 403, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 416, 421, 428, 430, 433, 434.
 Rutland, 210, 424, 425.

 SADLER, 245.
 Sagittary, 159, 162.
 Salke, 40.
 Salter, 145.
 Samson *or* Sampson, 162, 241, 245.
 Samways, 53, 54, 123, 124, 162, 170, 261, 282.
 Sanctuary, 67, 252.
 Sanders, 23, 35, 173.
 Sandford, 77.
 Sands, 355.
 Sandwich, Earl of, 439.
 Sargent, Seargent, Sarjeant *or* Sargeaunt, 79, 80, 118, 124, 131, 245, 440, 442.
 Sauer, 343, 345, 347.
 Saunders, 71, 73, 167, 410.
 Savage, 126, 261.
 Sawkins, 77.
 Sawyer, 130.
 Schofield, 351.
 Scott, 74, 77, 416.
 Seaboarne *or* Seaburne, 34, 78, 79, 185.
 Seale, 358.
 Seamark, 299.
 Seccombe, 221, 222.
 Sedcole, 97.
 Serchfield, 339.
 Serres, 78.
 Seymer, 417.
 Seymour, 84, 103, 104, 107, 123, 278, 282, 308, 309, 351.
 Shand and Mason, 138.
 Shapland, 176.
 Sharp, 222.
 Sharpie, 78.
 Shaw, 380.
 Sheldon, 106.
 Sherievé, 143.
 Sherring, 206, 237, 311, 312, 315, 357, 424.
 Shiner, 77, 292, 421.

- Short, 89, 90, 123, 124, 186, 417.
 Sibley, 185.
 Sidney, 223.
 Silk, 277.
 Simper, 101.
 Sincocke, 79.
 Slad, 173.
 Slade, 23, 262, 263, 379.
 Sleep, 175.
 Small, 97, 357.
 Smeeth, 114.
 Smith, 159, 199, 319, 335.
 Smitham, 32.
 Smyth, Father, 109.
 Soper, 132.
 Sophocles, 222.
 Sorbière, 217.
 Southey, 222.
 Sowter, 77.
 Sparks, 416.
 Spenser, 222.
 Spink, 312.
 Sprackling, 424.
 Sprake, 296, 299.
 Spratt, 160, 164, 216, 217, 218, 219, 427.
 Spray, 380.
 Sprigg, 122.
 Spring-Rice, 177, 377.
 Squibb, 71.
 Squire, 148, 208, 209, 231, 377, 379.
 St. Bega, 9, 21.
 St. Inthware, 40.
 Stacy, 93, 124, 162, 261, 379.
 Standrick, 125.
 Stanhope, 41.
 Staple, 132, 441.
 Stavordale, Lord, 438.
 Steele, 64, 392, 416.
 Steer, 292.
 Stembridge, 105, 109, 322.
 Stevens, 7, 111, 112, 123, 124, 177.
 Stevenson, 35, 71, 72, 73, 262.
 Steward, 290, 301.
 Stickland, 124, 172, 417.
 Stockdale, 440.
 Stocker, 321, 417.
 Stodgill, 123, 124, 125, 132.
 Stodley or Studley, 33, 124, 173, 186, 261, 282, 416.
 Stokes, 77, 246.
 Stone, 82, 282, 296, 396.
 Strode, 33, 34, 41, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 55, 64, 71, 78, 82, 92, 136, 137, 157, 158, 164, 172, 186, 188, 200, 201, 202, 203, 214, 215, 216, 217, 224, 265, 272, 327, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 341.
 Strokege, 201.
 Strong, 80, 124, 125, 172, 244, 245, 277.
 Stripp, 380.
 Sturt, 379.
 Sugar, 125.
 Sugg, 282.
 Summers, 387.
 Sustemans, 341.
 Suttill, 296.
 Swaffield, 103, 107, 131, 132, 173, 261, 292, 356, 392, 421.
 Swatridge, 63, 110, 148, 153, 194, 207, 232, 234, 357, 363, 417.
 Symes or Simes, 22, 23, 32, 35, 49, 53, 78, 79, 124, 126, 132, 151, 152, 153, 172, 187, 189, 194, 235, 249, 250, 261, 262, 278, 282, 306, 307, 309, 325, 351, 359, 362, 371, 387, 410, 441.
 Symonds, 292, 313, 314, 416, 426, 444.
 Symons, 443.
 TANNER, 78, 79.
 Taprell, 97.
 Tapscott, 373.
 Tate, 64.
 Tayler or Taylor, 78, 126, 183, 352.
 Templeman, 130, 410.
 Templer, 106, 440.
 Tennant, 353.
 Terry, 241.
 Tett, 282.
 Thomas, 97, 176, 245, 392.
 Thomson, 105, 106, 199, 377, 423.
 Thornton, 115.
 Tite, 95, 103, 104, 308, 363.
 Tizar, 261.
 Tizzard, 208, 261.
 Toby, 239, 241, 306, 418, 422.
 Toleman, 128, 134, 138, 148, 149, 240, 241, 287, 317, 379, 380, 394, 417.
 Tolley, 290.
 Tomlinson, 222.
 Tone, 45.
 Toogood, 125, 186.
 Toop, 192.
 Turner, 92.
 Trask, 20.
 Travers, 284, 292.
 Tregarthen, 377.
 Treves, 16, 51.
 Trevett, 107, 261.
 Trew, 380.
 Troth, 205.
 Trotman, 69, 207, 223, 293, 424, 426, 427.
 Trump, 395.
 Tuck, 100, 167.
 Tucker, 31, 35, 78, 79, 124, 125, 157, 160, 162, 163, 164, 165, 170, 175, 176, 182, 188, 217, 219, 220, 239, 261, 282, 307, 308, 333, 374, 380, 381, 382, 417.
 Turberville, 200, 203, 347.
 Turner, 43, 71, 73, 90, 159.
 Tutchet, 112.
 Tybotet, 142.
 Tyre, 78.
 UNDERWOOD, 97.
 Usher, 440.
 VAGA, Pietro del, 341.
 Vale, 40.
 Van Orley, Bernard, 342.
 Vaughan, 107, 108.
 Venner, 243.
 Vesey, 142.

Victoria Princess, 351, 388, 390.
 Vie, 282, 328.
 Vile, 35, 131, 167.
 Vincent, 109.
 Vine, 110.
 Viney, 380.
 Virgint, 237.

WADE, 144, 242, 243.
 Wainwright, 165.
 Wakely, 173.
 Walbridge, 115.
 Wall, 262.
 Waller, 217.
 Walron, 185.
 Warburton, 410.
 Ward, 114, 217, 377.
 Warden, 416.
 Ware, 131.
 Warr, 133, 144, 146, 167, 168, 179, 277,
 282, 315, 371, 386, 387, 406, 417, 435,
 436.
 Warren, 176, 263, 362.
 Warton, 222.
 Waterman, 105.
 Watkins, 285.
 Watts, 125, 261, 287, 289, 299.
 Waugh, 77.
 Way, 93, 123, 124, 416, 421.
 Waygood, 35, 84, 131, 282, 308, 314, 316,
 363, 403, 406, 410, 411.
 Weaver, 173, 356.
 Webb, 239, 240, 241, 416.
 Webber, 132, 373.
 Weisse, 222.
 Weld, 410.
 Wellstead, 263.
 Welshman, 185.
 Wesley, 116.
 Westbrook, 105.
 Westcomb, 71.
 Weston, 77, 241.
 Weville, 113.

Wheadon, 132, 277, 278, 282, 307.
 Wheatley, 34, 291, 301.
 Wheeler, 262.
 Whetham, 288, 297, 300.
 Whinnel, 71.
 White, 20, 64, 78, 79, 125, 173, 426.
 Whithed, 324.
 Whitelegg, 175, 176, 387.
 Whitmore *or* Whitmore, 92, 123, 125.
 Whitmarsh, 137.
 Whitmash, 373, 374.
 Whittle, 125, 132, 158, 159, 162, 254, 329.
 Wickham, 262.
 Wilkes, 117.
 Wilkins, 97, 173, 217, 245, 324.
 Wilkinson, 77, 93.
 Williams, 93, 106, 107, 124, 179, 204, 237,
 238, 239, 276, 301, 379, 408, 415, 417,
 426, 439, 442, 448.
 Willis, 377.
 Wills, 77, 101, 261, 262, 377, 380.
 Wilmot, 41, 282, 309.
 Wilson, 93, 199.
 Wind, 162.
 Winter, 395.
 Wise, 385.
 Witty, 77, 417, 437.
 Wogan *or* Ougan, 347.
 Wood, 78, 82, 125, 223.
 Woodbury, 373, 374.
 Woodward, 386.
 Wordsworth, 222, 421, 439.
 Wotton, 442.
 Wren, 217.
 Wurtemberg, Duke of, 391.
 Wymburne, 142.
 Wyndham, 14, 217, 337.
 Wynford, Lord, 302.

YEATMAN Biggs, 68.
 Young, 245, 282, 417.

ZURBARAN, 342.

INDEX—PLACES.

- ABBOTSBURY, 130, 185.
 Aberdeen, 105.
 Affpuddle, 131.
 Aldershot, 301.
 Allington, 202, 310.
 Almer, 131.
 Andover, 371.
 Appledore, 106.
 Ashe, 11, 13.
 Ashill, 104.
 Askerswell, 130.
 Axminster, 90, 91, 97, 113, 114, 176, 253,
 312, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373.
 Axmouth, 16.
 Axnoller, 13, 16, 264, 265, 270, 271, 272,
 417.
 BALADENTHLYN, 142.
 Barbadoes, 245, 246.
 Barnstaple, 106, 165.
 Barrington Court, 336.
 Barrow Field, 13, 294.
 Basingstoke, 371, 374.
 Bath, 115, 351, 370, 373.
 Batcombe, 130.
 Beaminster, Acreage of parish, 268.
 " Almshouse, 200.
 " Assistant Curates, 77.
 " Bottom, 264, 360.
 " Bread Charities, 207, 208.
 " Clothing Club, 212.
 " Coal Club, 177.
 " Commons, Allotments in,
 277, 278, 279.
 " Commons, inclosure of, 263,
 264, 279.
 " Commons, Inclosure Act, 273.
 " Commons, Inclosure Award,
 274, 276.
 " Congregational Chapel Regis-
 ters, 111.
 " Copyholders, names of, 260.
 " Court Leet, 357.
 " Cricket Club, 392.
 " Derivation of name, 9.
 " Dorcas Society, 213.
 " Down, 3, 7, 263, 264, 265,
 268, 274, 389, 444.
 " Fair, 99, 149, 150, 151, 152,
 153, 154.
 " Fire Engines, 133, 426.
 " Floods, 434.
 Beaminster Freemasonry, 239.
 " Ghost Story, 165.
 " Grammar School, 178, 297,
 299, 310, 384, 387, 394.
 " Hogshill, 312.
 " Hollymoor, 10, 263, 264, 265,
 270, 271, 272, 273, 276,
 279, 392.
 " Hillary Charity or Great
 Gift, 205.
 " Hundred, 12, 14.
 " Institute and Public Hall, 423.
 " Manor House, 350.
 " Manors, Courts of, 257.
 " Manors, Court Rolls, 258,
 260, 265.
 " Manors, Customs of, 259, 260.
 " Manors, Lords and Stewards
 of, 261.
 " Market Bell, 142.
 " Market Cross, 154.
 " Musical Society, 66, 378.
 " Mutual Improvement So-
 ciety, 422.
 " Nursing Institution, 197.
 " Paper-mill, 306.
 " Parish Chest, contents of,
 330.
 " Parish Pound, 84.
 " Peter Meech Pension Charity,
 209.
 " Population, 450.
 " Printers, 311.
 " Races, 352.
 " Railway proposed, 310.
 " Rainfall, 433.
 " Ringers' Guild, 29, 77.
 " Robinson Memorial, 155, 156.
 " Soup Kitchen, 214.
 " St. Mary's Well, 429.
 " Stocks, 145, 384, 385, 386.
 " Sunday Market, 143.
 " Surnames, peculiar to, 261.
 " Tile Makers Co., 309.
 " Tucker's Free School, 157.
 " Union of parishes, 14.
 " Union Workhouse Chaplains,
 442.
 " Union Workhouse Masters
 and Matrons, 442.
 " Vicarage House, 75.
 " Vicars of, 70.

Beaminster, Workhouse, 184.
 " Yarn Barton, 305.
 Beaminster Church—belfry rules, 25.
 " " bells, 23, 24.
 " " brass tablets, 32, 38,
 39, 45, 55.
 " " Chantry Chapels, 41.
 " " Churchyard, 84.
 " " Clock, 23.
 " " Consecration, docu-
 ment concerning,
 82.
 " " Font, 67.
 " " Galleries, 32.
 " " Hillary Chapel, 37,
 62, 65, 68, 69.
 " " Hour glass, 57.
 " " Monuments, 49.
 " " Mort-house, 30, 65,
 79.
 " " Ordination Service,
 89.
 " " Organ, 35, 65, 68.
 " " Piscinas, 40, 44.
 " " Property, 42, 43.
 " " Pulpit, 55.
 " " Registers, 80.
 " " Rood - loft and
 screen, 45, 76.
 " " Royal Arms, 46.
 " " Safe, Contents of
 332.
 " " Safe, at Vicarage,
 Contents of, 332.
 " " Seating accommo-
 dation, 34, 414.
 " " Sunday School, 79.
 " " Windows, 58, 349.
 Benville, 205, 302.
 Berealston, 336.
 Bettiscombe, 14, 416, 435, 439.
 Bingham's Melcombe, 130.
 Bishops Caundle, 130.
 Blackdown, 6.
 Blagdon, 6.
 Blandford, 104, 131, 157, 164, 310, 368,
 371, 372.
 Bloxworth, 416.
 Bothenhampton, 129, 252, 324.
 Bowood, 13.
 Bradford Abbas, 130.
 Bradford Peverell, 131.
 Brading, 130.
 Bradpole, 12, 13, 122, 252.
 Bray, 164.
 Brians Puddle, 131.
 Bridgwater, 91, 153, 156, 243, 245, 348, 370.
 Bridport, 2, 5, 16, 65, 92, 96, 107, 110,
 112, 113, 117, 122, 129, 136, 143, 146,
 148, 150, 159, 179, 185, 200, 204, 209,
 221, 230, 239, 240, 242, 243, 246, 271,
 284, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 294, 295,
 296, 297, 302, 310, 314, 318, 321, 322,
 338, 355, 356, 358, 369, 370, 371, 372,
 373, 374, 389, 390, 403, 405, 406, 408,
 409, 410, 416, 426.

Brighton, 394, 416.
 Bristol, 221, 246, 370, 372, 373, 394.
 Bristol Diocese, 70, 339.
 British Museum, 165, 244, 389.
 Brit. river, 9, 16, 343, 428, 431.
 Brixham, 253.
 Broadenham, 183.
 Broadway, 97.
 Broadwindsor, 7, 14, 107, 108, 110, 122,
 130, 196, 204, 252, 372, 403, 416, 435,
 437, 440, 442, 444.
 Brympton, 235.
 Bubdown, 131.
 Buckham, 13, 215, 268, 335, 417.
 Buckland Newton, 131.
 Burstock, 14, 130, 442.
 Burton Bradstock, 12, 39, 106, 287, 288,
 295, 296, 300, 301, 377, 410.
 Butleigh, 176, 219, 220.
 CAEN, 339.
 Camesworth, 252.
 Canterbury, 222.
 Capon's Folly, 149.
 Carisbrooke, 339.
 Cattistock, 130, 204.
 Cerne Abbas, 97, 110, 130, 311, 372.
 Chalden, 130.
 Chalmington, 338.
 Chantmarle, 200, 337, 338, 339.
 Chantry, 41, 263.
 Chapel Marsh, 13, 417.
 Chard, 130, 319, 347, 369, 405.
 Chardstock, 13, 83, 130, 257.
 Charmouth, 35, 107, 122, 129, 372.
 Chartknolle, 123.
 Cheddington, 13, 14, 120, 130, 294, 310,
 352, 435, 440.
 Chelborough, 14, 129, 435.
 Cheltenham, 416.
 Chetnole, 130.
 Chideock, 129.
 Chilcombe, 130.
 Childhay, 14.
 Child Okeford, 131.
 Chilfrome, 201, 204.
 Chippenham, 312.
 Christ's Hospital, 156, 343.
 Civita Vecchia, 351.
 Clenham, 104.
 Clifton Maybank, 353.
 Clun, 327.
 Combe, 13.
 Compton, 130.
 Compton Abbas, 130.
 Coombe Down, 13, 289, 294.
 Coombe Keynes, 130.
 Corfe Castle, 8, 171.
 Corf Mullen, 130.
 Corscombe, 13, 14, 63, 103, 129, 177, 205,
 223, 246, 268, 328, 329, 374, 435, 440.
 Coryates, 8.
 Court Houses, 13.
 Crabbs Barn, 264.
 Cranborne, 272.
 Crediton, 108.

Crewkerne, 34, 130, 160, 164, 188, 253,
310, 321, 322, 369, 370, 371, 374, 383,
405, 416.

DANIEL'S Knowle, 85, 108.
Dewlish, 131.

Dibberford, 204, 357, 400.
Dorchester, 7, 97, 98, 106, 107, 122, 130,
157, 158, 164, 223, 234, 240, 244, 245,
246, 247, 286, 293, 294, 301, 314, 351,
356, 358, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374,
388, 405, 416, 417, 434.
Durweston, 131.

EAST COKER, 164.
East Dean, 327.
East Holme, 131.
East Indies, 220.
East Stoke, 131.
Eggardon Hill, 1, 2, 3, 221.
Enfield, 97.
Evershot, 14, 129, 192, 240, 283, 372, 435.
Ewerne, 130.
Exeter, 164, 244, 323, 368, 369, 370, 371,
372.
Exmouth, 301.

FALMOUTH, 372.
Fifehead Magdalene, 131.
Fonthill, 130, 351.
Forthington *or* Fordington, 131, 257.
Foxhole, 263, 276.
Frampton, 130.
Frome, 319.
Frome St. Quinton, 104, 131.
Froom Vauchurch, 130.

GENOA, 341.
Glanvills Wooten, 130.
Glasgow, 352.
Glastonbury, 219.
Greenwich, 217.
Grimstone, 257.
Guernsey, 106.

HADDON Hall, 346.
Halstock, 6, 14, 257, 374, 435.
Hams, 150.
Hanley, 131.
Hardington, 157, 164.
Hartgrove, 130.
Haselbury Bryan, 131.
Hawkchurch, 92, 130.
Hendon, 108.
Henley, 145.
Hewstock, 335, 338.
Hermitage, 131.
High Stoy, 281.
Hinton St. Mary, 131.
Hogshill, 312.
Holnest, 131.
Honiton, 368, 369, 371, 372.
Hooke, 13, 14, 15, 130, 435.
Horn Hill, 7, 218, 389.
Horningham, 273.
Horn Park, 10, 13, 263, 265, 338.
Houghton, 131.

Hudson's Bay, 220.
Huntspill, 348.

ILCHESTER, 92.
Ilminster, 97, 101, 130, 322, 347, 369, 373.

KASHAN, 341.
Kidderminster, 96.
Kingsland, 219, 296.
Kingston Magna, 131.
Kingston Russell, 13.
Knowle, 13, 247, 248, 252, 417.

LAMBERT's Castle, 7, 281.
Landport, 108.
Langdon, 10, 11, 13, 145, 146, 148, 256,
264, 276, 356, 431.
Langport, 235, 359.
Langton Herring, 131.
Langton Vallis, 130.
Leicester, 122.
Leigh, 130, 292.
Lenham's Water, 403.
Lemnos, 222.
Lewes, 103.
Lewesdon Hill, 281, 395.
Lightcliffe, 106.
Lincoln, 217, 440.
Litchet, 130.
Little Windsor, 6, 7, 219.
Litton Cheney, 130.
Loders, 115, 130, 200, 201.
Long Burton, 131.
Loscombe, 184, 185, 186, 187.
Lulworth, 8, 130, 286, 300, 301.
Lyddinch, 130.
Lyme Regis, 92, 119, 130, 242, 243, 244,
246, 253, 257, 338, 352, 354, 372, 388,
389, 391.
Lyndhurst, 301.

MADRAS, 220.
Maiden Newton, 7, 130, 264, 326, 373,
388, 430.
Manchester, 106, 352.
Manston, 131.
Mapperton, 12, 13, 14, 39, 50, 62, 130,
131, 159, 160, 161, 163, 170, 171, 252,
275, 289, 335, 347, 392, 400, 403, 416.
Mappowder, 131.
Marnhull, 130.
Marsh (Mapperton), 130, 171, 172, 174,
183, 326.
Marshwood, 335, 435.
Martinstown, 3, 5.
Martock, 371.
Meerhay, 4, 6, 13, 16, 38, 39, 108, 205,
264, 324, 345, 349, 415, 417, 421.
Melbury, 14, 129, 130, 388, 389, 390, 391,
416, 435, 440.
Melcombe Regis, 130.
Melplash, 13, 14, 290, 325, 350.
Mere, 126.
Meshed, 342.
Milborne Port, 234.
Milton Abbey, 131, 223, 287, 300.

Minehead, 301.
 Minstead, 205, 348.
 Misterton, 403, 435.
 Montacute, 344.
 Morcombelake, 107, 370.
 Moreton, 130.
 Morgan Hayes, 347.
 Mosterton, 12, 14, 130, 157, 218, 219, 287,
 357, 435, 440.
 NANTWICH, 110.
 Naseby, 122.
 Netherbury, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 68, 69,
 70, 90, 97, 110, 111, 112, 130, 159, 163,
 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 185,
 191, 196, 202, 216, 219, 220, 230, 256,
 257, 260, 287, 289, 296, 298, 299, 310,
 335, 386, 392, 435, 437, 440, 442, 443.
 Nether Cerne, 130.
 Nether Stowey, 236.
 Newnham, 336.
 Newport, 340.
 Nine Elms, 374.
 Nonsuch Palace, 340.
 North Cricket, 92.
 North Field, 13, 264, 284, 417.
 Nunwell, 61, 339.
 OKEFORD Fitzpaine, 131.
 Ormsby, 126.
 Osmington, 130.
 Ower Moinge, 131.
 Oxford, 218, 221, 222, 346, 432.
 PALLINGTON, 131.
 Parkstone, 301.
 Parnham, 13, 14, 61, 64, 143, 200, 224,
 234, 256, 265, 439, 447.
 Pendomer, 126.
 Penrudecks, 326.
 Pentridge, 131.
 Pershute, 126.
 Perth, 106.
 Pilsdon, 1, 2, 3, 7, 14, 357, 435, 439.
 Pimperne, 131.
 Plymouth, 68, 101, 108, 281, 369, 372, 432.
 Pointington, 431.
 Poole, 101, 105, 130, 245, 291.
 Poorstock, 14, 40, 98, 130, 184, 185, 186,
 199, 209, 210, 211, 221, 224, 252, 256,
 435, 440.
 Poorton, 12, 14, 130, 326, 435, 439.
 Portesham, 8.
 Portsmouth, 220, 340.
 Pottarn, 309, 362.
 Puddlehinton, 130.
 Puddletown, 325.
 Puddletrenthide, 130.
 Puncknoll, 130.
 Pymore, 310.
 QUARRELSTON, 217.
 RADIPOLE, 444.
 Rampisham, 6, 14, 91, 129, 435, 439.
 Redbourne, 105.

Redhove or Redhone, 12, 13.
 Ridgeway, 7.
 Ringwood, 103.
 Rochester, 218.
 SALISBURY, 301, 368, 369, 371.
 Seaborough, 14, 177, 435.
 Sebastopol, 352.
 Sedgemoor, 91, 243, 247, 329.
 Shaftesbury, 8, 109, 130, 371, 434.
 Shatcombe, 13, 264, 276, 417.
 Shefford Woodland, 327.
 Shepton Mallett, 336.
 Sherborne, 8, 15, 92, 97, 110, 130, 284,
 301, 328, 356, 371, 431.
 Shillingstone, 131.
 Shipton, 281.
 Shortmoor, 10, 168, 169, 178, 263, 273,
 279, 363, 381, 415, 420, 432, 433.
 Silton, 130.
 Slape, 256, 260.
 South Molton, 97.
 South Perrott, 12, 14, 130, 435, 439.
 South Petherton, 97, 101, 112.
 Southwark, 97.
 Stake Lane, 403.
 Stalbridge, 70, 130, 286, 287.
 Steeple, 130.
 Stintford Lane, 431.
 Stockwood, 131.
 Stoke Abbott, 13, 14, 17, 98, 108, 110,
 130, 177, 185, 196, 304, 335, 358, 435,
 440, 442.
 Stonecombe, 13.
 Storridge, 13.
 Stower Provost, 130.
 Stratford-on-Avon, 97.
 Stratton, 257.
 Studland, 130.
 Sturton Caundle, 131.
 Sutton Waldron, 130.
 Swanage, 97, 300, 301.
 Sydling, 101.
 Symondsbury, 130, 202, 203, 275, 416.
 TALATON, 217.
 Taunton, 91, 122, 244, 245, 321, 337, 342,
 370, 371, 374, 406.
 Thelkeld, 176.
 Thorncombe, 14, 176, 219, 281, 358.
 Tisbury, 100.
 Toller Down, 8, 121, 281, 310.
 Toller Porcorum, 130, 312, 416.
 Toller Whelme, 120, 440.
 Torbay, 254.
 Torquay, 69, 389, 416.
 Tunbridge Wells, 105.
 Turners Puddle, 130.
 Turnworth, 131.
 UPCERNE, 130.
 Uppingham, 92.
 Urless, 223.
 VENICE, 341.

- WADDON Hill, 2, 3.
 Wadham College, 216, 217, 218.
 Walditch, 130.
 Wambrook, 13, 129.
 Wareham, 8, 97, 99, 101, 131, 297, 434.
 Waterloo, 224, 281, 285.
 Waytown, 92, 110.
 Wellington, 109.
 Wells, 176, 219.
 Wellwood, 13, 417.
 Wesleyan Chapel, 65, 111.
 West Hawsley Place, 346.
 West Kirby, 181.
 Westminster, 217, 218, 431.
 Westminster Abbey, 336, 398.
 Weston Buckhorn, 131.
 West Orchard, 130.
 Weybridge, 352.
 Wey Hill, 310.
 Weymouth, 97, 106, 107, 137, 171, 244,
 301, 370, 388.
 Whatley, 263, 306.
 Whitchurch, 371.
 Whitcombe, 13, 289.
 Whitechurch (Canonicorum), 129.
 Whitehall, 254.
 Whitelackington, 347.
 Wimborne, 8, 130, 385.
 Winchester, 221.
 Windsor, 290, 295, 302.
 Winford, 130.
 Winfrith, 130.
 Winterborne, 130, 131.
 Witchampton, 131.
 Woodbury Hill, 310.
 Woodsford, 130.
 Woodswater, 209, 276.
 Wool, 130, 301.
 Woolmer, 300.
 Wooten Fitzpain, 129, 143, 164.
 Worcester, 68.
 Wraxall, 14, 129, 204, 235, 239.
 Wroxton Abbey, 340.
 YEovil, 97, 131, 234, 249, 369, 371, 373,
 374, 392.
 Yetminster, 130, 219, 254, 257.
 Yondover, 256, 257, 260.

INDEX—GENERAL.

ADAMS, Gilbert, Will of, 184.
Agriculture, 446.
Angelus Bell, 26.
Anglo Saxon Highways, 367.
Ariansim, 98.

BADGER-BAITING, 151.
Bairrows, 3, 309.
Beacon fires, 393, 395.
Bellman, 359.
Betton's Charity, 376.
Black Cattle, 264, 268.
Black death, 354.
Bloody Assizes, 21, 90, 121, 255, 351.
Bordar, 11.
Boy Scouts, 296, 302, 400.
Bridport News, 165, 251, 378, 424.
Bristol Riots, 80.
Bronze Age, 4, 5.
Burial in woollen, 305.
Butts, 16.

CARUCATE, 11.
Cholmondeley Trust, 379.
Cock-fighting, 151.
Crimean War, 369.
Cromlech, 7.
Cudgel-playing, 151.
Curfew, 25.

DEMESNE, 11.
Domesday Book, 9, 10, 11, 304.
Dorchester market report, 448.
Dorset, Victoria History of, 304, 447.
Dorset cheese, 154.
Dorset County Chronicle, 389, 402, 404, 412.
Ducking-stool, 145, 354, 355.
Durotriges, 2, 265.

EASTER and Whitsun cakes, 86.
Ecclesiastical Commissioners, 147, 257, 378, 432, 446.

FLEET, derivation of, 428.
Flogging, 356.
Floods, 433, 434.
Flower-pot Plot, 218.
Fribourg, 13.
Frith, meaning of, 259.

GUNPOWDER Plot, 26.

HANG Fair (Ilchester), 359.
Hayward, derivation of, 265.
Herriots, 15, 260, 274.
Hide of land, 11.
Higglers, 372.
Homage, derivation of, 258.
Hore-stone, 7.
House of Correction, 193, 356.
"Hungry Forties," 447.

KNIGHT'S fee, 11.

LYNCHETS, 4.

MONMOUTH Rebellion, 242.

NEOLITHIC Age, 5.
Netherminstrian, 181.

OAK-APPLE day, 26.

PALMER or Pilgrim, 20.
Parliamentary Broadside, 125.
Parish Constables, 354.
Parish Council, 427.
Parishes, origin of, 14.
Parish Workhouses, 196.
Passing bell, 28.
Patrons of Living, 70, 257.
"Peculiar," 81, 83.
Perpetual Curates, 72.
Pillory, 145, 354, 355.
Plague, 429.
Pole-heads, 235.
Police, 354.
Postal service, 321.
Prebendaries of Beaminster and Netherbury, 71, 257.
Private Schools, 385.

QUAKERS, 92.
Quarenten, 11.
Queen Anne's Bounty, 420.
Queen Victoria's Accession, 391.
" " Coronation, 391.
" " Death, 395.
" " Diamond Jubilee, 179, 394.
" " Jubilee, 392.
" " Visit, 388.

ROYAL Society, 217.
Rush-lights, 308.

SEMAPHORES, 281.

Serf, 11.

Sherborne Journal, 390.

Single-stick, 151.

Small-pox, 429.

South African War, 291, 297, 300, 426.

St. George's Day, 26.

"Sun" Fire Insurance, 137.

THANKSGIVING Peals, 27.

Tile-maker's Company, 309.

Tithe Apportionment, 444.

Tithe Barns, 443.

Tithes, 443.

Toller Down Fair, 120.

Tolpuddle Martyrs, 448.

Tradesmen's Tokens, 313, 426.

Tunnel Fair, 412.

Turbary, meaning of, 274.

Turnpike Gates, 412, 413.

Tything, 13.

VESTRY Bell, 27.

Victoria History of Dorset, 304, 447.

Villain, 11.

Virgate of land, 11.

Visitation expenses, 328.

Visitation peals, 27.

Volunteer Camps, 300.

Volunteers, 280, 351, 395, 399, 426.

WATCHMEN, 354, 358, 379.

West of England Fire Office, 138.

West Surrey Dairy Company, 310.

Western Flying Post, 403.

Window Tax, 126.

YEOMANRY, 352, 390.

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

ANDRESS, Misses, Beaminster.

ANDREWS, J. A. and R. M., 131, Church Street, Chelsea, S.W.

ANDREWS, JAMES (the late), Beaminster.

ANGEL, Rev. J. CLEMENT, Beaminster.

BASKET, SAMUEL RUSSELL, Evershot.

BATTEN, Colonel J. MOUNT, C.B., Mornington Lodge, West Kensington

BAYLY, Rev. PAGET L., M.A., Newton St. Loe, Bristol.

BEACH, W. B., M.P.S., Bridport.

BEAMINSTER INSTITUTE LIBRARY.

BEAMINSTER MANOR LODGE OF FREEMASONS, No. 1367.

BEAMINSTER AND NETHERBURY GRAMMAR SCHOOL LIBRARY.

BIRT, Rev. DOUGLAS, M.A., Beaminster.

BOND, J. S., Hamilton, New Zealand.

BRADFORD, Rev. BASIL W., M.A., Broughton Rectory, Oxon.

BRIDLE, JOHN R., Beaminster.

BROADLEY, A. M., The Knapp, Bradpole, Bridport. (2 copies).

BROOKS, ASHLEY, Beaminster.

BROWN, T., B.A., 77, Derby Square, Douglas, Isle of Man.

BUGLER, Miss EVELYN M., Beaminster.

BUGLER, R. W., Knowle Gap, Haslingden, Lancashire.

BULTEEL, Mrs., Hooe Manor, Plymouth.

BUSK, W. G., J.P., Wraxall Manor, Dorchester.

CHAMBERS, GEORGE, The Heath, Weybridge.

COLFOX, Lt.-Col. T. A., J.P., Coneygar, Bridport.

COLLINS, Rev. W., St. Andrews, N.B.

CONWAY, Prof. R. S., Litt.D., Draethen, Didsbury, Manchester.

COOMBS, Mrs. EDWIN, Holmefield, Sale, Cheshire.

COOMBS, THOS. PATTEN, St. Albans.

CORAM, Rev. FRANK, Solihull, Birmingham.

COX, Miss F. O., Beaminster, Dorset.

COX, GEORGE, 2, Sydenham Villas, Brading, Isle of Wight.

COX, Major J. C., Richmond.

COX, JOHN COOMBS, 91, Sebert Road, Forest Gate, E.

COX, J. RUSSELL, J.P., Hyde Park, W.

CROCKER, HENRY, Beaminster.

DANIEL, Mrs. W. J., Beaminster.

DANIEL, T. P., M.R.C.S.Eng., Beaminster. (3 copies).

DANIELL, Capt. W. H. M., R.N., Elwell Lodge, Netherbury.

DICKER, W. G., Beaminster.

DOCKAR DRYSDALE, Mrs., Wick Hall, Radley, Berks. (2 copies).

DUNCAN, Mrs. A. R., Duncraig, Charmouth.

DUNN, Mrs. J. BARRATT, Beaminster.

DYER, G. M., Slape Manor, Netherbury.

EARLE, Rev. A. C. H., Mapperton Rectory, Beaminster.

EBDON, CHARLES, Beaminster.

FEETHAM, Miss, St. John's Vicarage, Ebbw Vale, Mon.

FRY, G. S., Chesham, The Grove, Finchley, N.

GEAR, T. N., 71, Dyne Road, Brondesbury, N.W.

GERRARD, ALFRED W., F.C.S., South Mead, Moseley.

GOODDEN, Rev. ROBERT B., Hazlebury Bryan Rectory, Dorset.

GREEN, D. W. R. (R. Waygood and Co., Ltd.), London, S.E.

GUPPY, H. F., Beaminster.

HART, General Sir REGINALD, V.C., K.C.B., K.C.V.O., United Service Club, S.W.

HADFIELD, P. HEYWOOD, L.R.C.S., Newbury, Berks.

HALLETT, Misses A. and M., Beaminster.

HALLETT, R. EDGAR, Heaton Mersey, Manchester.

HALLETT, T. P., 52, Northen Grove, West Didsbury, Manchester.

HANN, ALBERT, Beaminster.

HARDCASTLE, The Hon. Mrs., Woodlands, Beaminster. (2 copies).

HARDING, O. ROY M., 20, Manor Court Road, Hanwell.

HINE, A. E. BARRATT, M.R.C.S., Eng., Charmouth.

HINE, CONWAY, M.R.C.S., Eng., Dunain, Poole.

HOLLOWAY, Mrs., Russell House, Halstock.

HOLLOWAY, H. H., Iwerne Minster, Blandford.

HUTCHINGS, Rev. G. C., M.A., The Vicarage, Beaminster.

JACKSON, Rev. PETER HOLMES, M.A., Patney Rectory, Devizes.

JONES, Miss E. BARRAR, Meerhay Cottage, Beaminster.

JOURDAIN, Miss M., Manor House, Broadwindsor.

KEDDLE, Miss, The Elms, Beaminster.

KEDDLE, Miss C. E., St. Mary's Cottage, Beaminster.

KITSON, CHARLES W., Orchard Hill, Netherbury.

KITSON, F. P., M.R.C.S., Eng., The Lodge, Beaminster.

KITSON, Captain H. L., The Chantry, Netherbury.

KITSON, J. GERARD, Blackheath, S.E.

KITSON, J. LANE, Eastcot, Beaminster. (2 copies).

LAXTON, W. H. S., Clifton, Bristol.

LEGGE, R. C., B.Sc., The Grammar School, Beaminster.

LEONARD, Miss, Beaminster.

LOVELAND, R. E., Queen's Gate, S.W.

MALAN, E. C., Bournemouth.

MARCH, Hy. COLLEY, M.D. Lond., F.S.A., Nethergrove, Portesham, Dorchester.

MARSH, N. J. SPRAKE, Brick Cottage, North Street, Beaminster.

MAYO, Rev. Canon C. H., M.A., The Lime Tree, Gillingham.

MITCHELL, FRANCIS HARRIS, Seaforth Lodge, Seaton.

MONKSWELL, The Dowager Lady, Beaminster.
MEREDITH, Miss MARGARET F., Beaminster.

NEVILL, Rev. EDMUND R., B.A., F.S.A., West Hanney Vic., Wantage.
NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, Boston, Mass.
NEWMAN, W. B., Beaminster.

OGLANDER, J. H., F.S.A., Nunwell, Brading, Isle of Wight.
OGLE, Rev. J., The Manse, Charmouth.
OWEN, Rev. D. C., M.A., Stoke Abbott Rectory, Beaminster.

PASS, A. DOUGLAS, J.P., Wootton Fitzpaine, Charmouth.
PETER, J. STEWART, Great Strode, Netherbury.
PETO, Sir HENRY, Bart., Chedington Court, Misterton.
PIM, ARTHUR A., F.R.C.S., The Walnuts, Beaminster. (2 copies).
PINE, ALFRED V., Ridgmont, Beaminster.
PINE, T. REGINALD, Beaminster.
PINNEY, G. F., J.P., Horn Park, Beaminster.
POINTING, THOMAS HAYWARD, Rowde, Devizes.
POMERY, G. J., Chancery Lane, W.C.
POPE, ALFRED, J.P., F.S.A., South Court, Dorchester.
PRIDEAUX, W. de C., F.R.S.M., Frederick Place, Weymouth.
PRIVETT, Mrs., Rock Hurst, East Lyss.

RANDALL, MARTIN, M.D., Lond., The Lodge, Wimbledon. (2 copies).
REYNOLDS, J. BRYANT, "Lewesdon," 17, Mulgrave Road, Croydon.
RUSSELL, Miss E. B., Beaminster.
RUSSELL, JOHN SPEKE, Dale View, Summersdale, Chichester.
ROPER, J. F., 2, Clements Inn, Strand, W.C.

SAUER, HANS, M.D., Parnham, Beaminster. (3 copies).
SCOTT, Major-General J. W., C.B., Chudleigh, Devon.
SHINER, Rev. RUPERT P., M.A., Church House, Salisbury.
SIDDER, SAMUEL, Somerset Lodge, St. Margaret's-on-Thames.
SKINNER, A. J. P., Colyton, Devon.
SWATRIDGE, W. B., East View, Beaminster.
SMITH, T. BANKS, Puysegur Point, Southland, New Zealand,
SMITH, NORMAN D., Beechcroft, Kilmington, Axminster.

TAYLER, Rev. A. F., Stafford Rectory, Dorchester.
TOLEMAN, CHARLES, Beaminster.
TOLEMAN, JOHN, Austrey, Chester Road, Erdington, Birmingham.
TREVETT, I. ORCHARD, Elmdene, Sherborne.
TROTMAN, FIENNES, Beaminster.
TROTMAN, W. W., B.A., Torquay.

VACHER, E. P., F.R.G.S., Cowfold Lodge, Cowfold, West Sussex.
VACHER, HERBERT P., Wayford, Winchester.

WAKELY, J., 27, Red Lion Sq., Holborn, W.C.
WHETHAM, W. C. D., F.R.S., Trinity College, Cambridge.
WILLIAMS, Rev. HOWARD (the late), Kanye, Bechuanaland.
WILLIAMS, Col. R., M.P., Bridehead, Dorchester.
WILLS, Miss M. E., Beaminster.

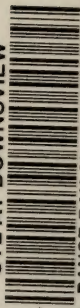
DA
690
B4H5

Hine, Richard
The history of Beaminster

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE
CARDS OR SLIPS FROM THIS POCKET

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO LIBRARY

UTL AT DOWNSVIEW



D RANGE BAY SHLF POS ITEM C
39 15 16 12 11 013 6